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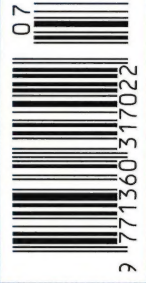
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REVIEWED: V-RALLY 2, you, plus three mates for a top night in



'I had that Ginger Spice in the back of me car once'



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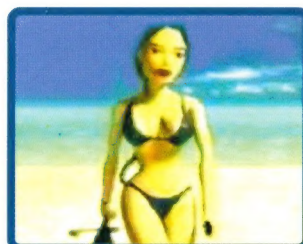
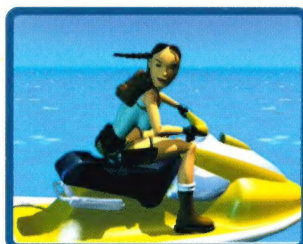
WIPEOUT 3

AMAZING NEW PICS!

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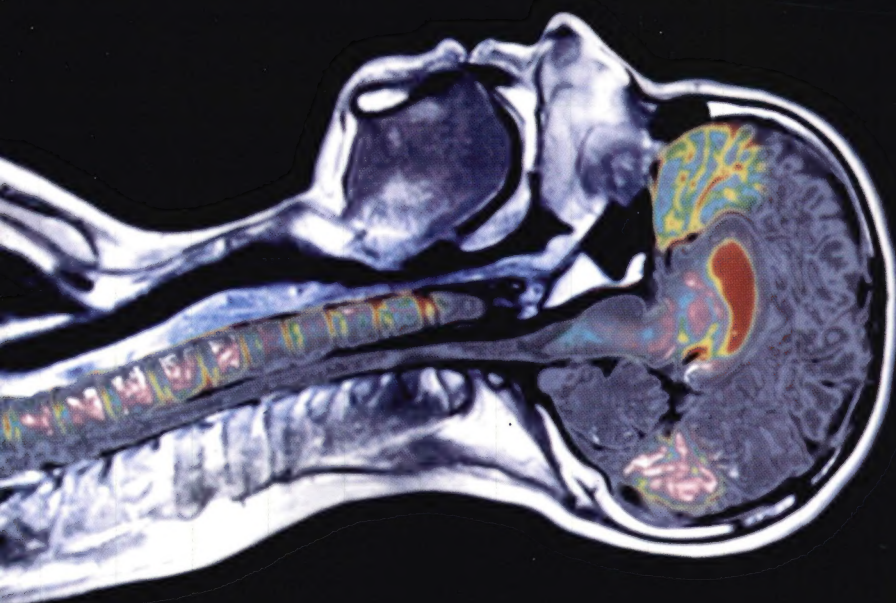
LARA'S HOT BIKINI ACTION!

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SUBJECT:
The Human Brain.

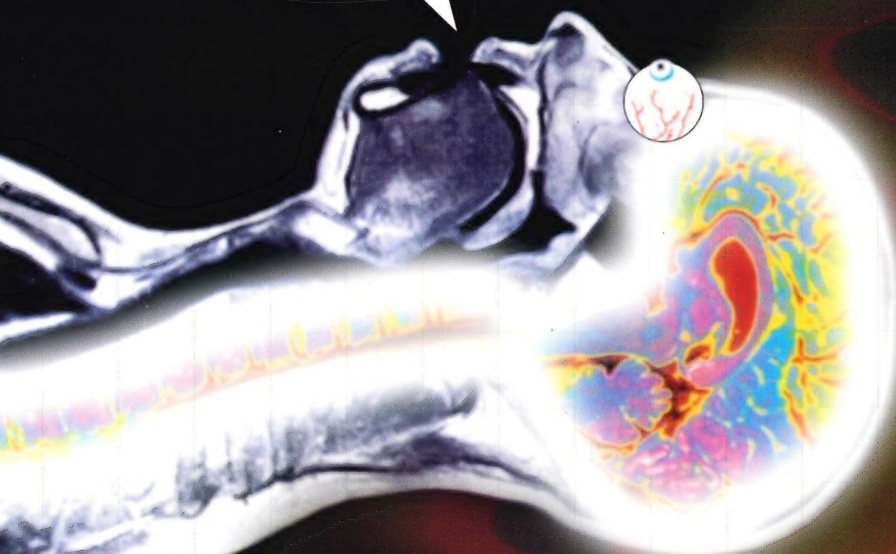
fig 1.



ACTIVITY:
sitting
reading



fig 2.



ACTIVITY:
bungee jumping
snow boarding
paint balling
climbing
jet biking
scad diving
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PLUS!



Mobile Stations

How to 'Station up your motor! **p56**

Twisting Flyer Starter! **p58**



■ You will not believe your eyes. WipEout's back, and it's better than ever!

Wip3out

We've got hot new shots of the fastest racer ever. Get in on the action now!

Instant Expert

Win every time! Here's how

V-Rally 2 **p46**

How to thrash your mates with ease



Final Fantasy VII **p50**

The ultimate Chocobo breeding guide

Bikini Lara! **p42**



Awesome new Croft pics!



Blab **p14**

Gotta see! Hot games you must check out

South Park **Resident Evil: Nemesis** Tony Hawk's Skateboarding **Dino Crisis** Fear Factor **Urban Chaos** Silent Hill **Die Hard Trilogy 2** Rally Masters and more!



p14 South Park: Cartoon capers



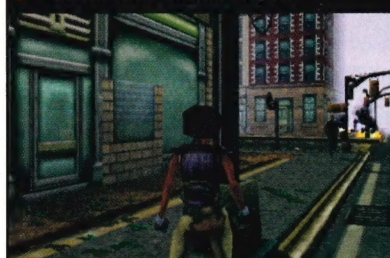
p16 Res Evil 3 Nemesis: Horror epic



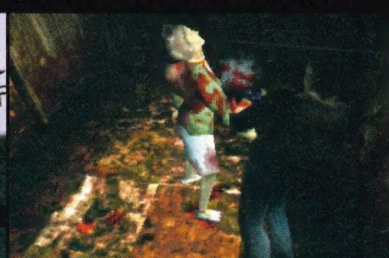
p20 Dino Crisis: Big reptiles vs big guns



p22 Fear Factor: Dark comic book action



p26 Urban Chaos: Sharp sci fi adventure



p29 Silent Hill: The sickest game ever?



p30 Die Hard Trilogy 2: Bruce goes tonto



p36 Rally Masters: Hardcore off-roading

V-Rally 2: Enter multiplayer nirvana



Right! The next corner's tight! Use your brakes... block his view and...

MAKE TRACKS

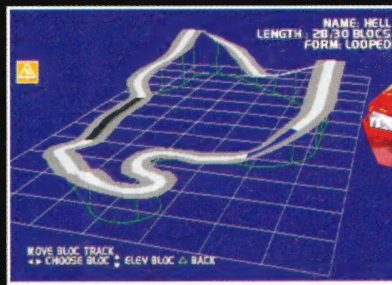
V-Rally 2: build your own circuits, thrash mates and bag the bubbly



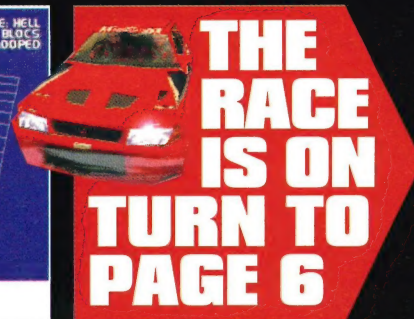
■ Laugh when your mate fouls up



■ Better reach for the brakes 'cos this baby's fast



■ Build tracks and race yer mates on 'em



The Works: V-Rally 2 First full test



MUD, SWEAT & GEARS!

It's got the power of 300 horses beneath the bonnet and an engine which doesn't purr, it growls. Only the best have got what it takes to tame V-Rally 2. Can you handle it?



Forget fancy Formula 1 and girly Gran Turismo, off-road rallying is the ultimate thrill on four wheels. It's a man's game where only the dirtiest drivers take the chequered flag. You've gotta have nerves of steel and awesome skill to even compete in the V-Rally 2 trophy, but to powerslide round hairpin bends at 60 miles-per-hour you need balls the size of melons. So for all those with giant-sized genitalia, here's your key to rally heaven.



1 This is an example of exactly how *not* to drive 2 Listen to your co-driver, they'll tell where to go 3 There are stacks of cool effects in here 4 Are you be good enough to get a place on the podium 5 The Lancia Stratos is one of the hidden cars 6 Cool replays, huh?

The Works: V-Rally 2 first full test

What we like

Awesome four player thrills!

V-Rally 2's a great multiplayer game. Whether you stick it on after the pub or plan a night in with a couple of mates, this is guaranteed to keep you riding the dirt for weeks. All you need it a multitap and three mates. And if you can't muster enough mates, then check out the cool two-player game.



■ The three and four-player mode is coolio, although a bit hairy



■ Night-time racing ain't easy, especially when there are four drivers going for gold

Graphics

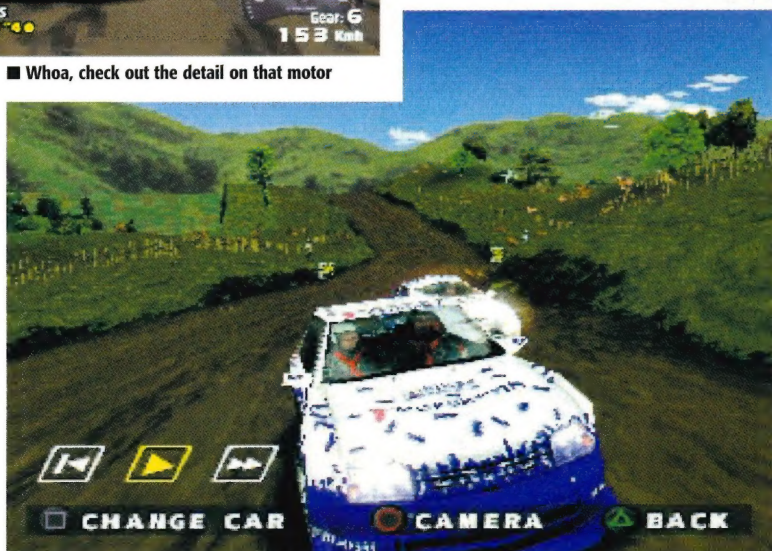
V-Rally 2 looks like Colin McRae Rally. Fact. OK, so a lot of driving games do look similar but the resemblance here is spot-on. McRae looked the business and so does V-Rally 2. The cars look slick, and although they're a bit blocky in multiplayer, you won't notice it 'cos this baby is fast. Also look out for nifty touches, like the crowd on the track.



■ Whoa, check out the detail on that motor



■ The cars and the backgrounds look super smart



■ Look back past your car and you'll even see the driver wrestling with the steering wheel



■ Ooo, lovely lighting effects



■ 'Outta my way, suckas!'

Game modes

Every racing game's got a load of different ways to drive. Here you've got four to choose from, but whichever you pick you're guaranteed dirt chuckin' rally action fast.

ARCADE MODE

Race against the clock and three other drivers. Initially you can choose only from a handful of cars and tracks, but break through to the next round and better cars and tracks are unlocked.



■ Arcade mode's got shortcuts in

V-RALLY TROPHY

The best game mode, we reckon. There's no annoying clock ticking away and you still get to race against three other blokes. You race for three different trophies, each with eight stages.



■ Other racers? Check!

CHAMPIONSHIP

The closest mode to Colin McRae 'cos you race against other drivers' times, rather than the actual cars. Like the V-Rally Trophy it's divided into three difficulties, but each of the races is divided into two stages. That's a total of 16 for each trophy.



■ Luckily you can repair any damage on your car in between stages

TIME TRIAL

Test out any car on any track you've unlocked - it's as simple as that. You don't race against other drivers, but compete against a ghost car with your best lap time.



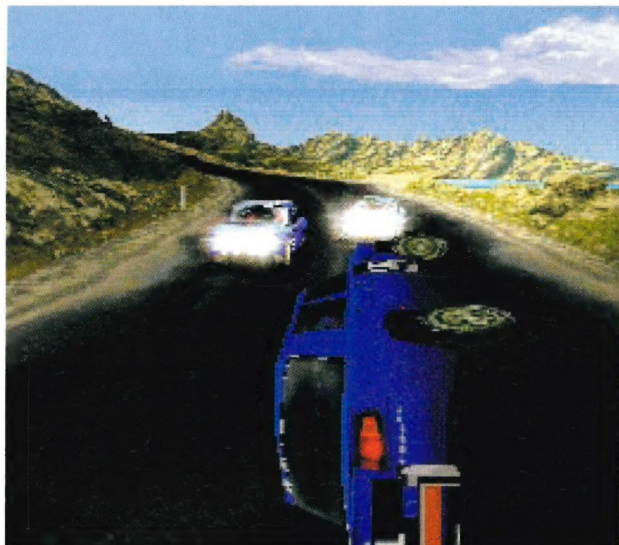
■ A ghost car repeats your time and you can race against it

'Dirt chuckin' rally action guaranteed'

This baby plays sweet

Forget about the slick graphics for a second. V-Rally's got loads more packed under its bonnet, especially lush gameplay. Yup, this beauty is easy to pick up and play, but more importantly it feels 'right'. When you're powersliding round a hairpin bend, slamming the handbrake to bring

the back end out before kicking in the power to pull out of the curve, it feels good. Unfortunately it's not that great with the Dual Shock analogue sticks because they're just not accurate enough, but stick with your basic Dpad and you'll dig the way the game handles.



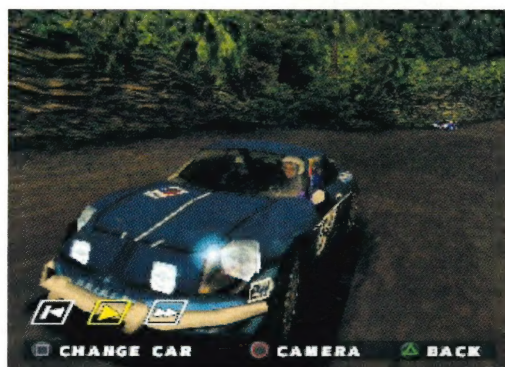
■ V-Rally's a constant fight for first place, against three other die-hard drivers



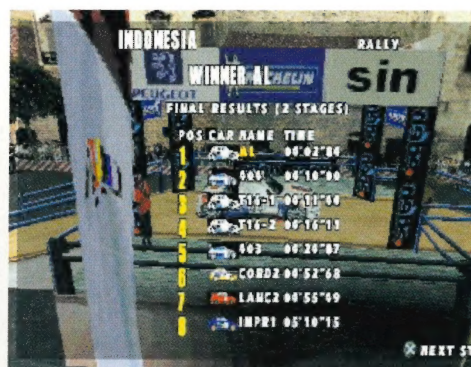
■ There's loads of pushing and shoving, but get it wrong and your car'll take a tumble



■ Three car pile-ups are common place in this rough 'n' ready racer



■ Win races and you get to compete in some classic rally motors



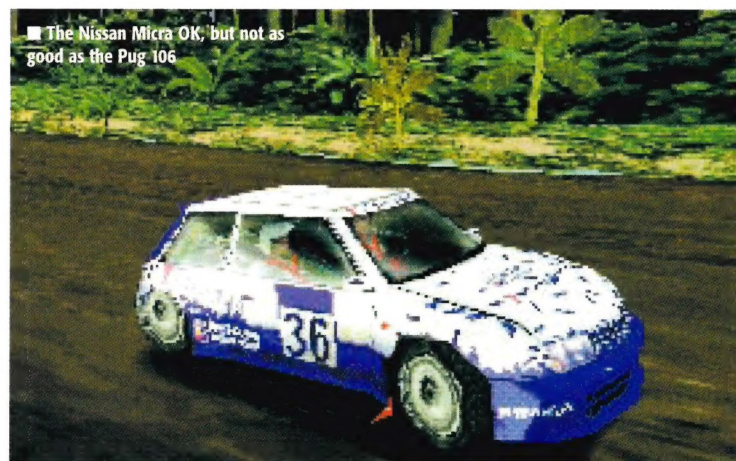
■ If you're good enough, you'll get on the podium

What?! Only 20 cars!

Unless it's got more motors than a Vauxhall dealer you don't wanna know, right? Well wait a sec. V-Rally 2's only got 17 basic cars but that's all you need. The 2-litre motors are nippy, especially the Seat Ibiza, while the 1.6 kit cars are slow. Experts should opt for the World Rally Cars - they're fast and fun to drive. There are also 10 hidden cars to win.

1.6-LITRE KIT CARS

Four kits cars here. Choose the Peugeot 106 'cos it's the fastest



■ The Nissan Micra OK, but not as good as the Pug 106

Fiddling under the bonnet

V-Rally 2's designed so you can get on the track fast. But if you want a bit more, check out the tune-up options. You can play around with different aspects of the car to make it handle exactly how you want. Basic stuff

ranges from swapping the tyres to fiddling with gear ratios. Change the suspension and car height if the track's particularly bumpy, or fine-tune the brakes to stop the back end sliding out. Easy. Kind of.



■ If you're up for getting a bit more techy, fiddle around with the suspension



■ But for the real boffs, after the brake balance between front and rear wheels

WORLD RALLY CARS

Eight on offer. We reckon the Ford Focus is the best, assuming you're as hot as McRae

■ This is Colin McRae's new motor so you know it's gonna be good



2-LITRE CARS

Just five to choose from, but the Peugeot 306 gets our vote



■ It gets a bit faster in the 2-litre league



■ The Pug 306 - the best of the bunch

The Works: V-Rally 2 first full test

Stacks o' tracks

There is a load of variety in the 72 courses dished up here. Some are muddy hell-holes with wicked hairpin bends, others are simple tarmac ovals so you can really push your motor to the limit. There are also super sprint tracks in which two cars race head-to-head, albeit in separate lanes. The tracks are set across 12 countries, so the scenery and weather conditions obviously change from track to track. And guess what - the English courses are damp and dreary. Typical, huh?



■ The rain forests of Indonesia are muddy



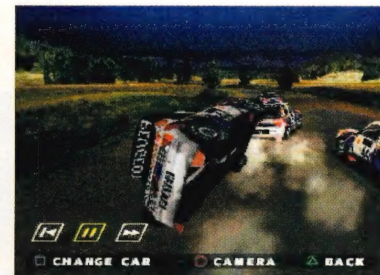
■ Sweden's dead snowy so make sure you've got ice spikes to stay stable

Replays

It's the norm for pretty much all racers but hey, we like class replay modes. And the replays in V-Rally 2 are smart. It records all the crashes and smashes from the entire race and bundles 'em all together with a load of different camera angles.



■ Switch between cars and cameras



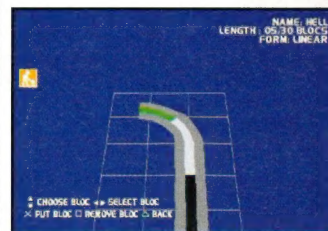
■ Crashes are the ultimate replay thrill

Six easy steps to building rally heaven

When you're fed up with the 70-odd circuits already included (which'll take some time), check out the track editor. It can be used two ways: if you're short on time, choose the track generator. It'll randomly create you a track to race on. The actual track editor is slightly more time consuming, but it's dead easy to use. Let us demonstrate...

1. START OFF SIMPLE

Tracks are built using blocks, of which you've got 65. They can be straight or curved, and you just stick them together to create a basic circuit. Start off with a couple of straights first, though.



2. MAKE IT MORE EXCITING

Next add some some turns. If you want a fast track, keep the corners slight. To spice it up a bit, follow a long straight by a nasty hairpin - it sorts out the McRaes from the Makinens.



3. JOIN THE DOTS

Used all the blocks? Then join the track together to make it a complete circuit. This is made dead easy by the automatic, um, 'join' function. Just click on it and your track's finished. Easy.



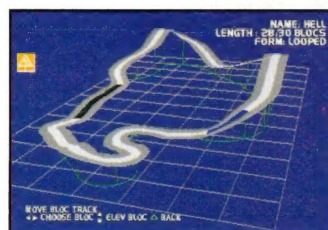
4. TEST IT OUT

Before you start playing around with hills and jumps, have a test drive around your new course. If you're happy with the straights and hairpins, it's time to add some demon jumps.



5. TAKE IT HIGHER

First add general lumps and bumps in the tracks by clicking on the elevation generator icon. Now add some serious slopes simply by lifting or lowering an individual section of track.



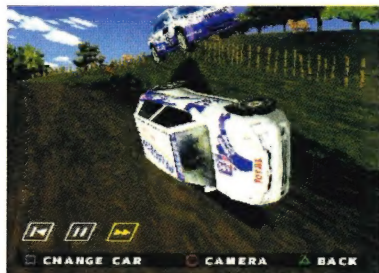
6. RACE!

And now you can cane your favourite car round your new circuit. Get in some practice laps then challenge your mates to a race. You made the track so you've got the advantage.



Damage

Bored with racing? Then pull off a 180° turn, drive the wrong way along the track and total your motor. It's doesn't take much before your car starts looking battered and the steering goes kaput though, so if you want to stay in the next race you'd better go easy.



■ Too many smashes like this and your car'll be a writeoff. Take it easy, fella



■ 'I dunno, guv. A new bonnet's gonna cost ya, your big end's blown and the steering...'

'Awesome four-player action'

V-Rally 2 Vs Colin McRae Rally

This is the battle between the two heavyweights, to see who's the dirt rider champ. In the blue corner is the current holder, Colin McRae Rally. He's facing new boy V-Rally 2. Gentlemen, we've got a fight on our hands.

GRAPHICS

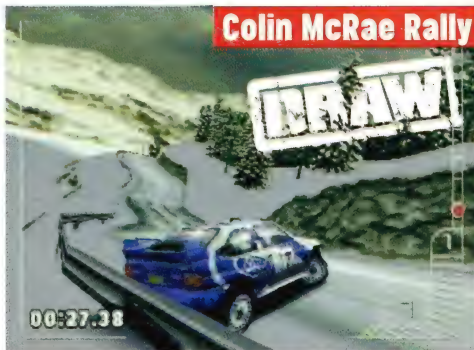


■ Fast and detailed, and the scenery looks great



■ Ditto. Visually it's impossible to separate these two

GAMEPLAY



■ Dead easy to pick up and great fun to play



■ Same again. This baby is simply divine to drive

MULTIPLAYER



■ Not bad, but it's only for two players



■ Unbeatable four-player fun for those with a multitap. Cool

Muchos multiplayer racing

It's great playing solo, but stick in a multitap and three extra pads, get your mates round and cane the four-player game. It's a laugh, and dead easy to set up. You can race in any of the modes but the V-Rally Trophy's the best 'cos you don't get the annoying time limit of arcade mode.

Although all cars and unlocked tracks are on offer, the WRC motors are most fun purely because they're the fastest. Even then the game slows down on some of the more complicated courses, but when this baby shifts, it really flies.



■ There's not much loss in detail in two-player



■ The four-player suffers from a bit of slowdown but it's still a good laugh

plus

We'd like to say...

If you liked Colin McRae you will love this because, quite simply, it's better. It's got everything Col has got, plus loads more. It's stacks better than the first V-Rally, which was just too unforgiving. That's sorted here. so if you clip a rock your car won't spin wildly out of control. It's still challenging, but in a nice kinda way. Class.

WIN 10 INTERACT MULTITAPS!

We've harped on about V-Rally 2's class multiplayer modes for a good reason - it's sweet. But we want you to try it out for yourself. So we've teamed up with top geezas Interact to give away 10 official V-Rally 2 multitaps. They're only available in limited HMV stores in London, but you can get your ticket to multiplayer paradise just by entering this competition. Send a postcard with your name, address and phone number on the back to I want a V-Rally multitap, PlayStation Plus, Angel House, 338-346 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7QP. Soz but you have to supply your own mates.



winner

The fastest, most thrilling mud-chuckin' rally game you'll ever need. Superb in one-player but a real gem for up to four players. Alex

PlayStation plus
RATED 94%

The image is a promotional advertisement for 'Heat' magazine. It features a movie theater setting. At the top, a film strip is visible. The main screen shows a desert landscape with a long, straight road stretching towards the horizon under a blue sky with some clouds. The title 'THE END' is written in large, white, serif capital letters, with '(Thank God)' in a smaller, similar font below it. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members are visible as they sit in blue theater seats, looking towards the screen.

THE END

(Thank God)

If only you had read the review in Heat magazine.

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Got something you're desperate to share with the world of PlayStation? Get writing...
(If your question is just about games or tips, use our coupon on page 74, we'll pay the postage and print an answer in **PlayStation**.)

FINAL FANTASY

I'm writing to complain about your reviews on Final Fantasy VII. In the first review Jon gave it 97% and said it was 'the best game on the PlayStation', which I agree with. Then I came over the review of the Platinum edition **Steady. It was a good review, but not that good** and you gave it 86%! Is it me or have any of you actually played it? My opinion is that it is the best, biggest and most beautiful

game ever. I've completed it three times and I'm still not bored.
N Hammond
FFVII's revised score reflects the fact it's not to everybody's taste. Sure, the plot's big and involving, and the visuals are great. But the gameplay is plodding and just a touch dull. The new score's meant to show the game's good AND bad bits.



JOYPAD BABY

Am I your youngest reader? I was five weeks old in this picture. Thought you might print it, because you always have 'babes' in your mag.
Love, Scarlett

Awwwww. Thank God they didn't put a Dual Shock on top of young Scarlett: she'd have been crushed to death. Anyway, there you go folks. The gamer of the future. You saw her here first...



■ Check out Disney's new 'Honey, I've blown up the PlayStation pad' ride

EVERY MONTH, WITHOUT FAIL

Hey, I am bored of my games! There are two I want soooo desperately but I can't afford either. HELP! The two are Metal Gear Solid and Tekken 3. I have the demo for Metal Gear, but I've finished it 14 times and it's getting boring. **Here's a thought. Why don't you write a thinly-disguised begging letter to a magazine in the hope they'll send you the games?** Just thought I'd share my feelings with you.

David Cuthbert, email fella
Maybe next time, eh?

THRILL KILL KULT

Your mag is terrific. Just one question, though. Is it true that Thrill Kill got killed off before it could thrill anyone?

Rob Leeuwis

Yup, 'tis true. Thrill Kill, the ultra-bloody sado-masochistic four-player beat 'em up, has been shoved on the back burner for, like, eternity.

It's sad that games companies feel they have to stop us playing stuff 'for our own good': we've all played Thrill Kill loads and it hasn't done us any harm. Now if you'll excuse us, we're off out and we've got to choose which of our victims' faces to wear...

GLOAT

Thanks for voting everybody. Well, almost one million votes were cast, with 92% of you voting for Kellogg's Coco Pops!! So, Coco Pops it is!!

Coco

Ha! Words from the monkey himself (on Kellogg's website). For months, we campaigned bitterly against the new name of Coco Pops - so-called 'Choco Krispies' - and hundreds of our readers bombarded Mr Kellogg and his monkey with carping letters. And then voted in their droves against the change. Hoorah for us!

UK KARMA

Have you seen the UK Version of Carmageddon running? If so is there people instead of zombies and red blood instead of green? If the UK one is cut then I will get the US version instead. Got any dates for Unreal? **The 300th of September. That's an Unreal date.**

Jim Culver, email geezer

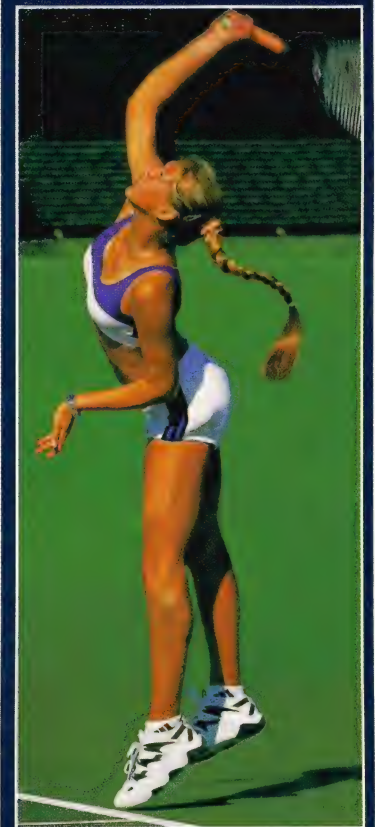
Good news and bad news, gore fans. The UK version of Carmageddon will be fully redblooded, which is a good thing. But you run over zombies instead of people. As for

ANNA K

Hi there to all at PlayStation Plus. I am writing to you requesting that you celebrate the release of Anna Kournikova's Smash Court Tennis with some pictures of her lovely leggy body. Cheers.

Colin Hastie

Always happy to oblige a sports fan.



■ 'New balls, please'

Unreal, there's no release date yet. More news, um, real soon.

WE WERE RIGHT

Last week I sent a cheque in the post for a copy of Grand Theft Auto London. The following day my PlayStation Plus dropped through the letter box, saying how crap it is. And you're right. In future, I think I'll wait.

David Crane

Yup. GTA London's got nice posters but not-so-nice graphics. In future, hold your horses till we've had our say, huh?

We make PlayStation

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LOOK, WE HAVE TO PRINT THIS STUFF

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FAIR COMMENT

Everything's based on our opinions. The info we use comes from companies, or is correct to our knowledge. News/previews are based on info true when going to press.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT

We would herewith like to apologise to anybody we've ever insulted when drunk. Soz.



Blab

■ p16 Resident Evil 3 Nemesis ■ p20 Dino Crisis
■ p18 Tony Hawk Skateboarding ■ p22 Fear Factor

The best info and pics of the hottest games YOU want to know about. If you're looking for new games, look no further.



■ The high-resolution graphics are smart



■ Bag turkeys with snowballs!



■ OUT SEPTEMBER ■ BY ACCLAIM ■ PLAYERS 1-3 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

South Park

Ohmigod, they killed... well, nothing's safe in this freaked out fragfest!

An overdose of toilet humour, crude animation and an alarming interest in anal probes. You either love or loathe South Park, but you can't avoid it, especially now it's coming to 'Station near you real soon. Yup, Kenny, Cartman and co are the saviours of planet Earth, fighting off alien invaders in what is possibly the most ridiculous game ever.

Shoot, run, shoot. Simple.

South Park's a simple idea: it's just like any other first-person shooter. Doom, Duke Nukem, they're all pretty similar. You grab a weapon, you run around, you kick ass. Easy. But South Park's got something else: humour, and this baby's dripping with one-liners. From the constant barrage of sarcastic comments to the bizarre range of weapons, mass genocide has never so much fun.

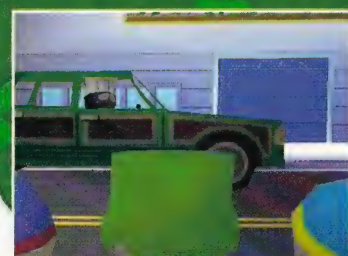
Stuff the turkeys!

Shooty stuff includes snowballs which you lob at bad guys, to a giant-sized rocket launcher which fires cows. God knows why, but it works, and well too. The enemies are just as far out, as armies of gobbling turkeys peck at the boys' eyeballs and aliens attack, wielding anal probes. Multiplayer promises to be much fun too, with two of the flat freaks kitting themselves out with weapons and fighting one-on-one.

plus The humour's spot on and so are the graphics, but when we played it the gameplay still needed a bit of tweaking. It should be sorted soon though.



■ When all else fails, stick a cow in the barrel and let it rip!



■ Chef pops in for an appearance



■ Take aim! If you're good enough, pick off Kenny from afar



■ Chef's love shack? Fancy stopping off for a bit of R&R?



Resident Evil 3 Nemesis

Uuurghh! Blast! Spurt! Attention bloodhounds! Ultra-gory zombie-blaster is comin' your way

Bleedin' hell! We've just played Resident Evil 3 Nemesis and it's better than we dared expect! Eye-popping graphics, mind-bending puzzles, gut-wrenching violence and buckets of blood. This is gonna be one helluva fine game...

The story so far...

Resident Evil 3 Nemesis sees the return of Jill Valentine, a member of STARS (Special Tactics and Air Rescue Service) and survivor of the original Resident Evil game.

The story picks up just a few hours before the events of Resident Evil 2, with Jill packing her bags to leave for Europe. Caught in Raccoon City, a town crawling with flesh-eating zombies, Jill must once again rely on her cunning and brute strength to escape.

Before Jill manages to get out of town, she's severely injured and knocked unconscious. With the help of Carlos Oliveira,

a 21-year old mercenary from South America, players must find a cure to save Jill from an untimely death.

The evil has landed

We're expecting tons of cool new features in Resident Evil 3 Nemesis. There are heaps of new monsters to blast the crap out of – some even follow you through doors and up stairs. There's also a new dodge button so you can avoid being chomped on by the demons and, best of all, a smart new 'live selection' feature allowing you to make decisions at key points in the game which affect the outcome. It's early days, but we reckon this one's gonna be a blinder.

Resident Evil 1 & 2 rank up there with our all-time fave games, so this one has a lot to live up to. But we reckon it might just pull it off...



■ Resident Evil 3 is gonna be massive, so there'll be a fair bit of exploring for you to do



■ The hounds of hell are back for the third time



■ 'Ouch!' 'Fart!' 'Splurt!'



■ Looks familiar, right? That's because it's the same setting as Res 2. Weird eh?



■ This big mutha is the Nemesis. As you can see he's big. Very big. And he doesn't like sweet-ass girls messin' in his business. Gulp



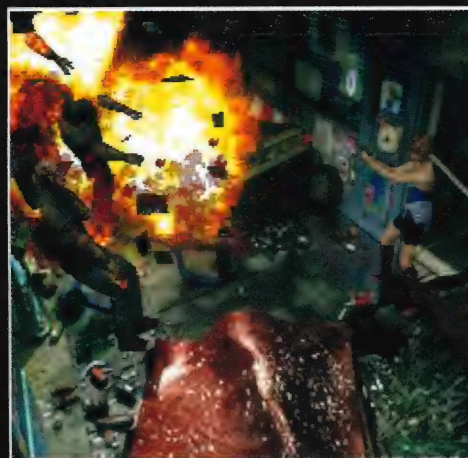
■ The tension will have you gnawing your cuticles to the bone



'Better than we dared expect!'



■ Even bigger than Res 2. Even scarier than Silent Hill. Yep, Resident Evil 3 Nemesis is gonna be one helluva fine game.



■ You've got a dodge button this time around to avoid the zombies. And boy, are you gonna need it



Drivers! Start your engines

The PlayStation Plus-Max Power Live Driving Game Championship is on 2-4 July

Stop talking arse and prove you're the dog's at racing games. Roll up to Max Power Live at Brum's NEC where you'll find three days of torqueing, screaming motors and class gaming with PlayStation Plus. We're hosting the UK Driving Game Championship with Max Power and you'll have the opportunity to mix it with motor heads in games like V-Rally 2, WipEout 3, Ridge Racer 2 and other hot new 'uns.

And all you have to do is turn up at Max Power Live at the NEC on any of the days from 2-4 July. Couldn't be simpler.

On the main stage we'll be running head-to-head challenges – and there are piles of prizes on offer. Call the phone hotline 0121 767 4101 to book your £15 tickets. That gives you access to the outdoor cruise strip, indoor dyno tests, a burn-out pad, In Car Entertainment sound shootout, a chill-out zone plus a big bucket-load of babes.

20 TICKETS FREE!

There are 10 pairs of £15 tickets free to you and a mate if you send in a postcard marked 'Max Power Live Free Tickets' to PlayStation Plus, Angel House, 338-346 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7QP.

MEET US, PLAY GAMES

At the PlayStation Plus stand you'll find a stack of new and unseen games to get your hands on first.

Us lot from the mag will be there to give tips, advice and a tenner to anyone up for spending a bit of time telling us what they're into. Easy money! And don't forget to check out the cool Aprilia scooters from our competition on p63.

WOS 'APPENIN' MAAN?

WHEN? 2-4 July from 9am to 6pm

WHERE? Birmingham's NEC

WHAT? Max Power Live features 120+ tuning, modifying and in-car entertainment stands, an outdoor daily sprint challenge, DJ Chill Out Zone, a brace of top bikini babes including PlayStation Plus poster girl

Jordan, engine performance shootouts, and in-car Entertainment testing. How cool does all that sound to you?

TICKETS? Ticket hotline 0121 767 4101. £15 which includes trackside seat at the Cruise Strip. Or get 'em on the door and pay £3 extra for a seat.

■ OUT SEPTEMBER ■ BY ACTIVISION ■ PLAYERS 1-2 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Tony Hawk's Pro Skater

Don't carp. If you want to skate, you've come to the right place. For eel.

The PlayStation's pretty short on skating games. And it's even shorter on decent ones. Cue Tony Hawk's Pro Skater. Tony Hawk, see, is one of the world's top skaters. And the idea here is that the game will mirror his 'boarding style, which is a combination of flipping/grabbing type technical skating with nutty aerial acrobatics.

Skate tough

So, plenty o' tricks. Cool. We're promised a trick system that's in-depth enough so's you

can pull off literally hundreds of combos from kick-flips to 'crooked grinds'. But it's not just a question of hurtling off ramps spinning upside down. There are obstacle races, skatepark circuits, all sorts of secret areas and even some weird kind of skater tig game going on. With a split-screen two-player mode. Promising.

At best a half-decent skating game? Yes, this is looking like it's dripping with promise. More news as we get it...



■ The parks are set up for all manner of stunts



■ You can go head-to-head against a mate



■ Hardcore aerial acrobatics are what you want in a skating game. And they're here. In spades



■ On the more circular tracks, you'll have to do plenty o' rail slides to pick up points...



■ On some of the tracks, speed is the key



■ And on some it's all just about 'catching air'



■ Kickflips and grabs are fairly easy to pull off



■ But more advanced tricks take practice



■ Fans of Tony Hawk – you know who you are – will recognise the Tonester's signature moves in here. Very clever



■ Foul up stuff while you're in the air, and you'll go tits up, losing you valuable seconds...



■ On the more stunt-based tracks, you'll find you spend most of your time spinning around upside-down. We like

**TAMARA WANTS HIM TO MEET
HER PARENTS. All Keith wants is
a spanking gorgeous Pot Noodle**



POT AND *POT NOODLE* ARE REGISTERED TRADE MARKS OF KNORR NAEHRMITTEL AG

Dino Crisis *update*

The latest info on what could be THE game of the year

We're not the biggest adventure game fans in the world. But chuck in some high-calibre firearms, a bloody great Tyrannosaurus Rex and geysers of blood, and we're as happy as Larry. Lucky for us that's what Dino Crisis is all about then...

The story so far...

It goes something like this: you take the role of Regina, a member of the special forces operative team. You're sent to the tropical island of Ibis to capture loony Professor Kirk and seize details of his bizarre Jurassic Park-style experiments. Of course, it's not quite that simple. The professor and his research material have disappeared, and the paradise is overrun with rampant flesh-eating dinosaurs. Velociraptors and T-Rexs that haven't roamed the earth for millions of years are now running wild. You've gotta

figure out what the hell's going on and get off the island alive.

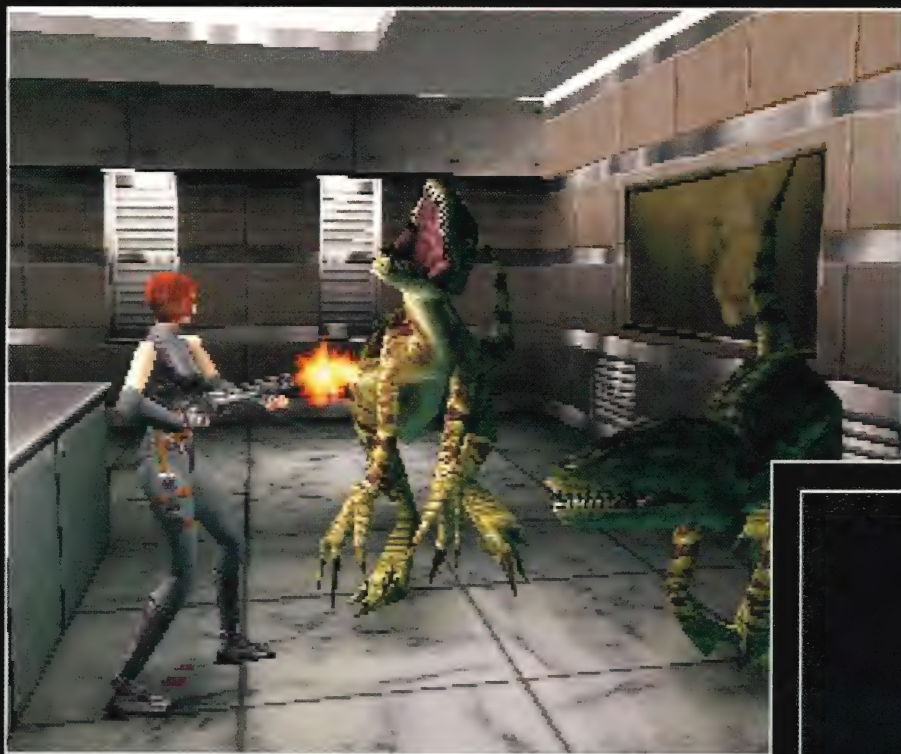
Jurassic blaster

So, yeah, basically it's Resident Evil, but with bloody great dinosaurs instead of flesh-eating zombies. And not all the camera angles are static, either. Nope, Dino Crisis uses slick cinema-style camera sweeps to enhance the action. The end result is awesome – just have a gawp at the visuals on this page. The dinos are absolutely huge and have the ability to stalk, attack and toy with their prey. They can disarm a character with a vicious attack, rendering them helpless until a new weapon is selected. And if you get too close they'll rip your bonce off. Nasty.

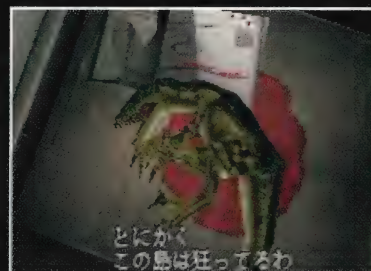
Dino-blasting with razor-sharp graphics. It's gonna be wicked.



■ Sporadic bursts from your semi-automatic should see this dino off



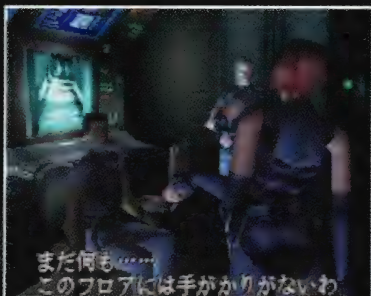
■ The way the camera pans around the action to let you see what's going on is way cool



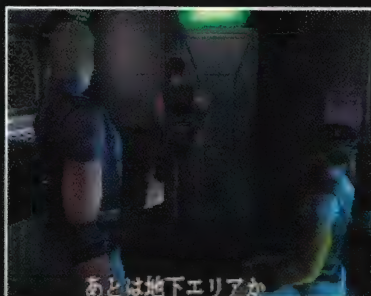
■ You want mental dino-blasting action with gut-wrenching gore? Then look no further



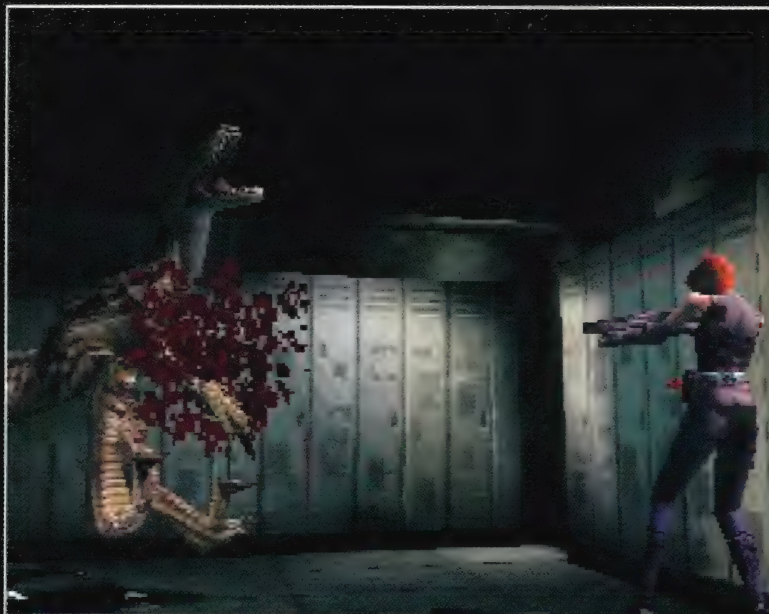
■ This is the gal you play as: Regina. And she's dead hard



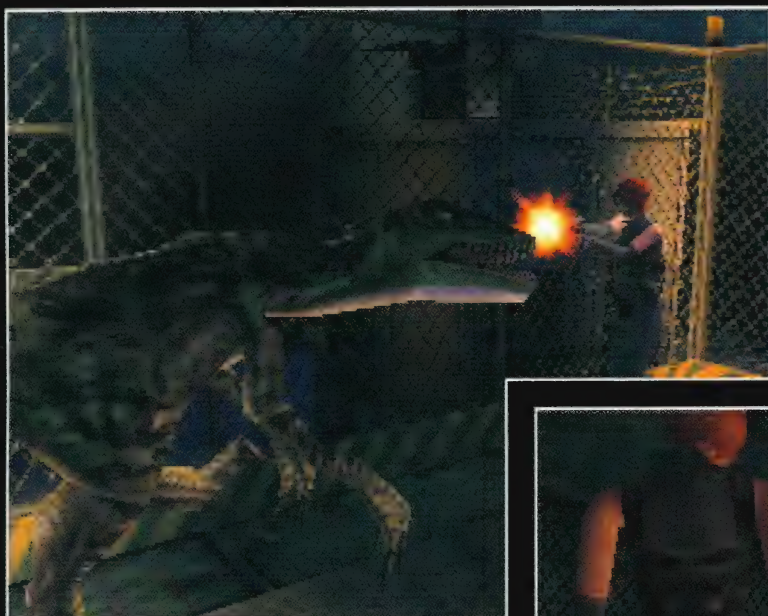
■ One of the story-telling cutscenes



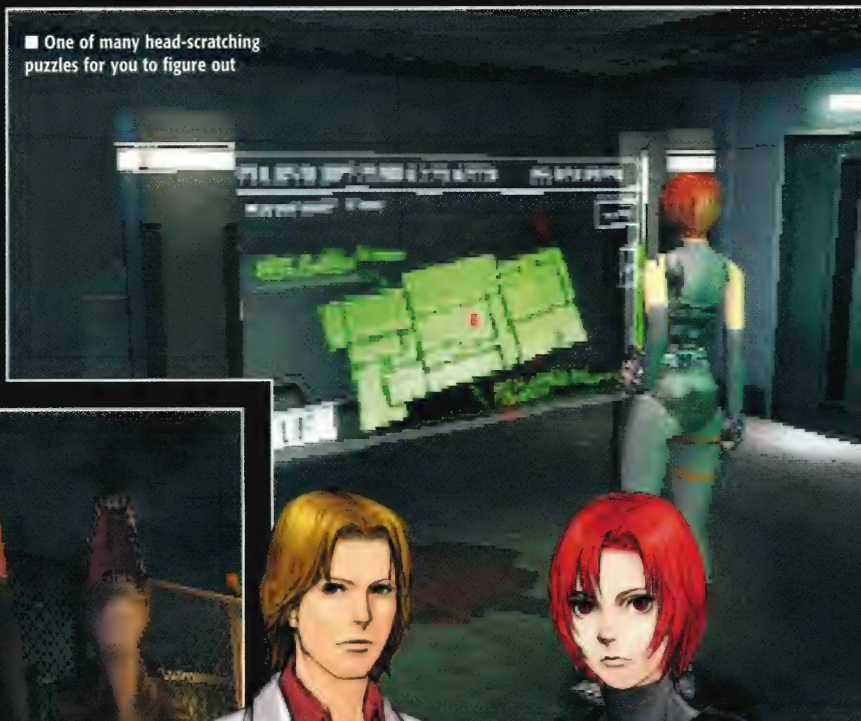
■ Plenty of over-emphasised hand gestures



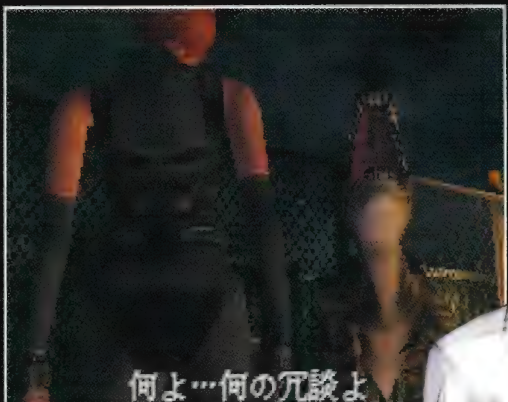
■ Equip yourself with the pump-action shotgun and go on a frenzied dino-killing spree



■ Up close and personal with a rampant Velociraptor



■ One of many head-scratching puzzles for you to figure out



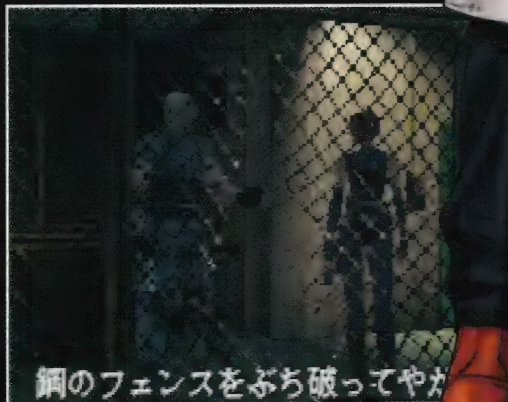
■ Introduce 'ickie dinosaur to Mr Uzi 9mm



■ The Tyrannosaurus Rex is feckin' huge! You're gonna have your work cut out taking him down



■ Don't let up for a second or it'll rip your head off



■ Murder. Mystery. Intrigue. This has got the lot



Fear Factor

Sweet chopsocky action on the sour streets of Hong Kong

A game which seamlessly blends full-on action with cool movie sequences. You've heard it a million times before. But wait. This time you'd better believe it, 'cos Fear Factor's got some of the most stylish visuals we've seen. The Japanese-style graphics are distinct and feature in both the movie scenes and action sequences, so the switch between them is almost invisible.

Hong Kong ka-blooley

This plot goes something like this: the daughter of a leader of the Hong Kong Triads has gone missing, and you play one of three mercenaries hired to track her down. The game is set in the neon lit streets of HK and uses a combination of static Resident Evil-style camera angles and sweeping zooms to create awesome suspense. And it works well. Action sequences are made a whole lot more exciting as the camera closes in on the blasting, while the wider angles make it easier to tackle some of the puzzles.

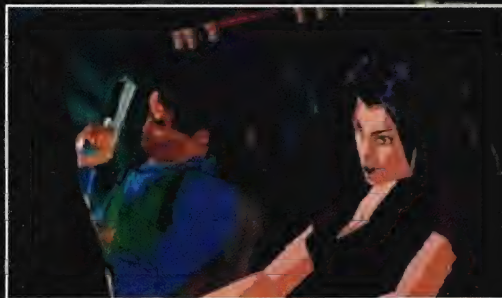
Guns! Action! Loads of levels!

The action's spread across eight worlds, totalling over 100 environments in all. There's loads of stuff to play around with, from cool weapons to gear essential for completing your quest. It's accessed through a neat on-screen inventory too, so unlike Tomb Raider and Resident Evil, you don't have to leave the action to switch between guns. Yup, this here's a non-stop fragfest 'n' puzzle combo. And that's gotta be a good thing.

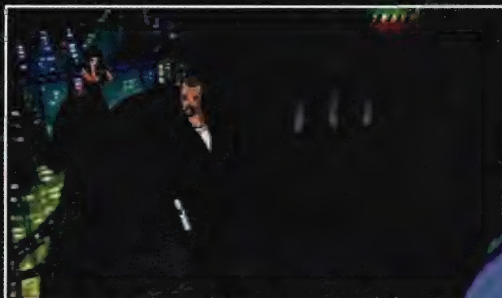
Fear Factor looks brilliant – you will love its stylish graphics. Guaranteed. Gameplay looks promising too, but it's long way off. More info soon.



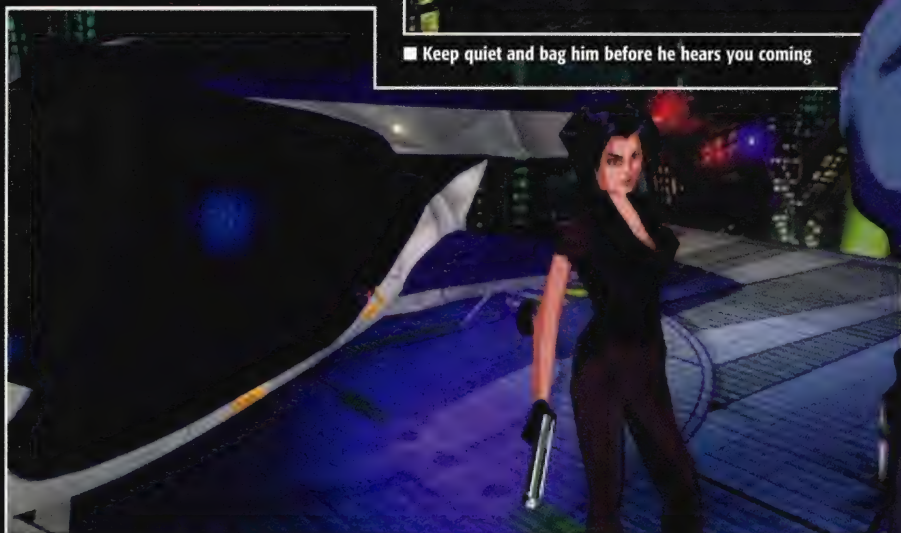
■ Although this screenshot is touched up, this is basically what it will look like



■ Visually Fear Factor is very stylish. We like it a lot



■ Keep quiet and bag him before he hears you coming



■ You play this toolled-up chick who's gotta rescue some Triad lord's kid, and it's not gonna be easy



'Fear Factor's got some of the most stylish visuals we've seen'



■ Some of the backgrounds are static, some move



■ The camera sometimes closes in on the action



■ That's your ship, but you can't fly it at the moment. Damn



■ Two gun action galore!



■ Uh-oh, no bullets. Better scarper then



■ Tasty lady shoots before the bloke. And that's gotta be a first

FA Premier League STARS

It's the most exciting league in the world. Now it's got its own game. Let's look at the team

Come the start of the Premiership campaign this August there'll be a new 'Station kickabout on the block. The FA Premier League STARS is designed to tap into the most fiercely and passionately-contested league in the world. All the grudge matches will be in there for the taking. And if it's detail you're after, then the faithfully rendered stadiums and spot-on team strips should do the trick.

A star is born

The game uses what it calls Stars: points dished out depending on your team's match performances. This lets you improve your players' shooting, passing or tackling. Or you can buy new players. So you can totally customise your team and whip your mates, eventually doing a Fergie and becoming the daddy of the Premiership. The game uses the same engine as FIFA 99 so it could have a similar feel. But just remember that FIFA 2000 lands up here for Christmas.

Looking good, but it's going to have to go some to be the best.



■ If you reckon you could break down the Arsenal back four, then this is your chance



■ This keepers got fingers like butter



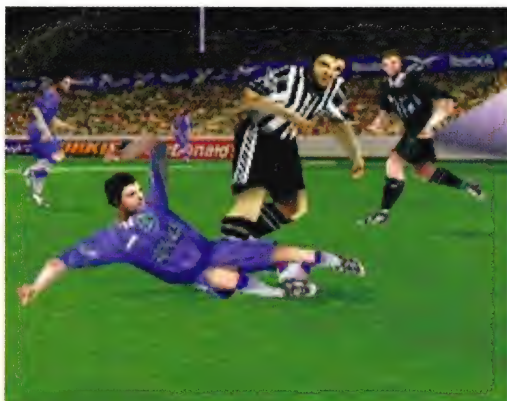
■ He slipped on a 'divot', and did a convincing impression of a Stuka dive-bomber



■ There's plenty of playing options in this game



■ Peter Schmeichel doing what he does best, going down



■ Pulling off a perfectly-timed tackle - here's one we made earlier



■ Temper tantrums - all part of the modern game. And in here



■ This shot looks really realistic, you can sense the power



Whatever else puts you on the spot
it needn't be spots.



Uh-oh! Bit of an embarrassing spot? Still, look on the bright side. OXY products help kill spot causing bacteria on contact, helping to prevent spots **before** they start. Which means, at least it won't be **that** sort of embarrassing spot that puts a cringe making blemish on your day. **SPOTS? OXYCUTE 'EM.**

■ OUT NOVEMBER ■ BY EIDOS ■ PLAYERS 1-2 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Urban Chaos

Two gunned-up cops and a lotta crime that needs cleaning up. This is gonna get messy...

The future. Dirty streets are thick with crime and the law has been overrun by tough guy perps packing serious shooters. But this is their unlucky day. You're part of a two-man team of hot-shot cops, and you're about to clean the streets of scum. Whaddaya waitin' for? Go get 'em!

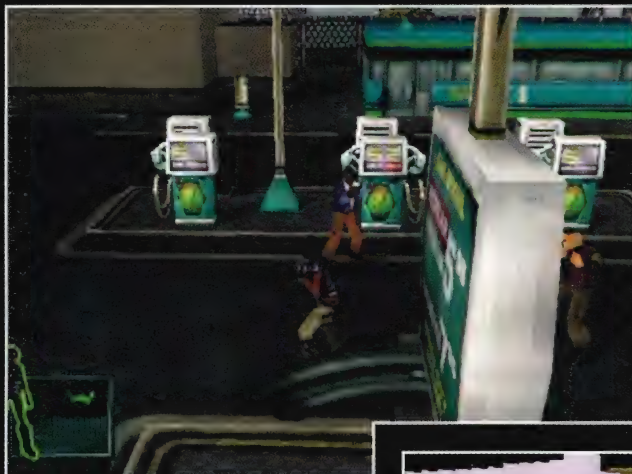
Lady and the tramp

Roper's a wisecracking old guy. Darci's a hot chick with big afro hair. Between them they've got to sort out crime in The City, a bad-ass town run by a cult of terrorists predicting the not-so-distant end of the world. It's one big city though, so listen to the mission objectives carefully and take every opportunity to tool up with the latest guns and hi-tech gear.

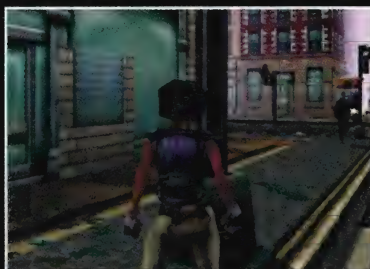
The end is nigh

You start off playing Darci, but change to Roper at key bits in the game. Essentially you've got to complete missions by arresting thugs and finding out more info on the Nostradamus cult, but how you do this is up to you. You can stick to the streets and talk to civilians, or use your badge to 'confiscate' cars, bikes and other vehicles to make the journey around the city that bit faster. Or you can take to the rooftops, where you'll find a completely different world. Either way, you've got to act fast, because Armageddon's a-comin' and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ain't gonna wait for no-one.

Complete freedom to explore a living, breathing city's a good thing, and it looks and plays tasty too. Trust us, this is gonna be a good 'un.



■ Up close and personal. C'mon, take a shot



■ The city is already looking extremely detailed



■ She may be a lady but she takes no prisoners. Do not mess



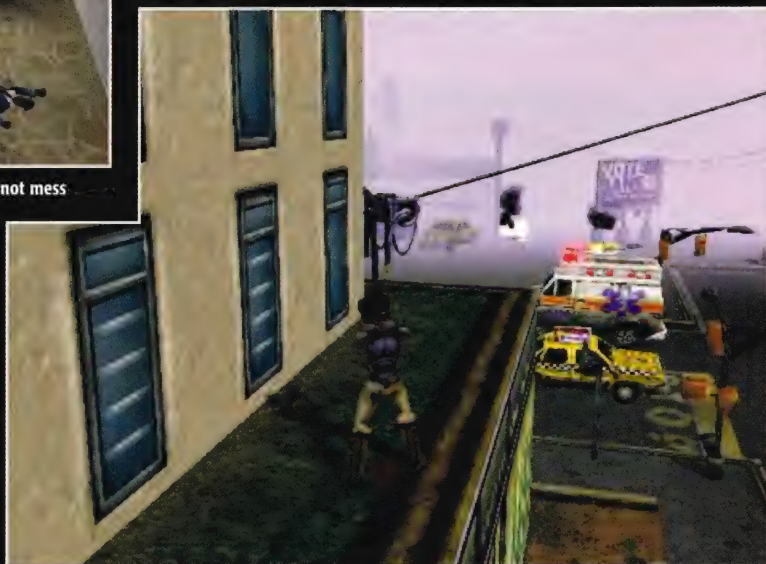
■ There's so much kung fu fighting in Urban Chaos, they're even doing it in the undergrowth. Nice backgrounds, though



■ Pick up the club and give that thug and good leathering. Death to law breakers!



■ The combat system works well. First fight the perps, then arrest them while they're KO'd



■ You can make your way from one roof to another using the network of deathslides

'You're a hotshot cop about to clean the streets of scum'



■ There's blood on the streets. It's not yours though, so who cares?



■ Darci stops off for some munchies



■ Two-player split-screen



■ 'Yo ass is busted, sucka'

■ OUT OCTOBER ■ BY VIRGIN ■ PLAYERS 1-2 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Trick 'n' Snowboarder

Snowboarding game from the Resident Evil boys...

The problem with snowboarding games is that they're all pretty much the same. A few new tricks here. A few new courses there. But, let's face it, we've seen it all before.

Trick 'n' Snowboarder is the only one that can claim to be genuinely different. Yeah, it's got the bog-standard halfpipes, 1080s, backflips and all the rest of it. But it's also got the cast of Resident Evil 2. Weird eh?

Itchy... scratchy...

Here's the pitch — hit the alpine slopes with your fave Resident Evil characters. Slide down a halfpipe pulling off 'radical' 1080s as Claire Redfield. Slalom your way through 10 international courses as a zombie cop. Or blast down the side of a mountain executing tricky railslides as rookie cop Leon Kennedy. Sounds good to us.

On the piste

Once the novelty has worn off a bit, you'll find a whole lotta game to sink your teeth into here. Cane the white powder in the single-player game, tackle the world's most dangerous slopes in the free mode game, customise your boarder and fiddle with the

replay footage in the smart edit mode, or thrash your mates in the two-player game.

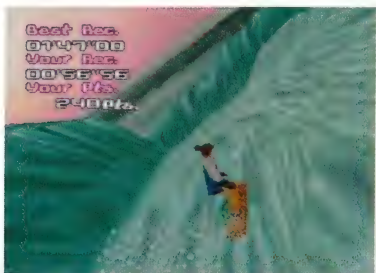
plus We're not sure how this'll turn out. The Res 2 twist is cool, but snowboarding games aren't usually much cop. Check back for more updates...



■ Finish the championship and you can play as the zombie cop



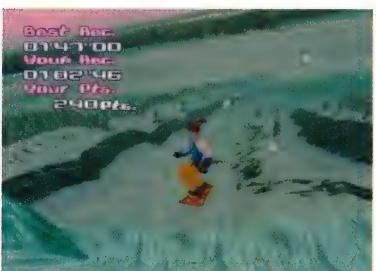
■ Cane the slippery slopes as Res 2's Leon Kennedy



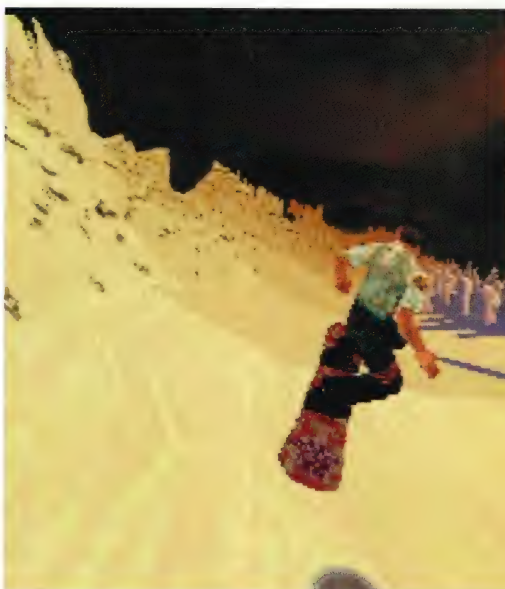
■ Edit the replays to produce spectacular movies



■ The night-time courses look well impressive



■ The multiplayer game should be a top laugh



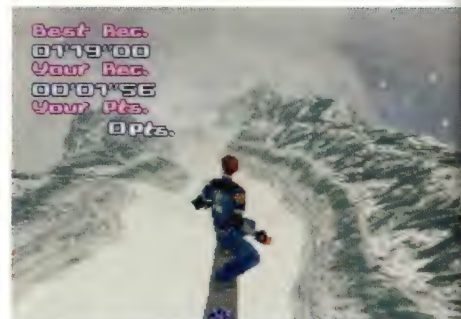
■ Practice your skills in the free mode before moving onto the more challenging championship game



■ All the usual backflips, 1080s, railslides and tailgrabs are in Trick 'n' Snowboarder



■ There are tons of different courses to practice your snowboarding skills on



■ Grab some mad height with Leon. Cool eh?

Be afraid. Be very afraid

■ OUT SEPTEMBER ■ BY KONAMI ■ PLAYERS 1 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Silent Hill

Goo to go and gore galore mean this is one to watch

Not sick of seeing Silent Hill screenshots are you? Good, 'cos we're sure as hell not. And there's a good reason why: this game looks like a real peach. With pant-caking visuals as a start point, Silent Hill weaves a horror film storyline into an adventure cum puzzle-solving epic that Resident Evil and Tomb Raider fans are gonna cream over.

Don't go down there!

The claret spurts good in Silent Hill world. As you explore the kind of town that makes Resident Evil's Raccoon City look like Disneyland, you run into all manner of evil

stuff. And all that evil wants you dead. Cue scary atmospherics, lots more gore (we reckon at least a 15 rating for this one) and your social life temporarily on hold.

Axe me no questions

Course, you don't go wandering around Silent Hill armed with just your bad breath. Scattered around are gonzo baddie-pulverising equipment like a shotgun, pistol and even a woodman's axe. Yum.

Hardened game nuts quake at its name. Silent Hill will seriously rock your world.



■ Expect the unexpected in Silent Hill



■ Check out the flame effects. Yum



■ Everything's dark and atmospheric



■ OUT WINTER ■ BY SONY ■ PLAYERS 1-2
■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Destrega

Ask questions first, kill people later...

Most 'adventure beat 'em ups' tend to be an endless queue of baddies saying 'Put 'em up! Put 'em up!' Dull as hell, in other words.

That's all going to change with Destrega, a premium beat 'em up in its own right which also features an atmosphere-laden role-playing/fighting effort with magic spells, legendary relics and underground dungeons. Intriguing, we think.

Meaty beaty bash bash

Even just as a free-standing bash bonanza, Destrega's looking pretty solid: you can have mano-a-mano slugfests with one or two players, ranging across massive 3D environments. Everybody comes toolled with massive special moves and explosive spells,

and you can use the scenery to dodge or outflank people. Clever.

Plus People have tried to do this kind of mix before and failed. But this one might pull it off. Lookwise it's a peach, and they've got the ideas. Fingers crossed.



■ Graphics look nifty



■ Ah yes, some fantasy land it's your job to 'roam'. Well get roaming, boyo



■ Destrega promises all the thrills of a beat 'em up proper

■ OUT NOVEMBER ■ BY FOX INTERACTIVE ■ PLAYERS 1
■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, STEERING WHEEL

Die Hard Trilogy 2

Yippie-ki-yay! Die Hard Trilogy 2's on its way

The original Die Hard Trilogy was a storming success. People went batty for a slice of John McClane on the 'Station. So it's little wonder there's a sequel in the pipeline.

This time ol' McClane's visiting a friend in Las Vegas. And guess what? There's a bunch of hi-tech terrorists in town as well. Cue mayhem.

Viva Las Vegas

As in the first game, the sequel boasts three different game styles. There's a third person action adventure, a first person shoot 'em up and an extreme driving mode. You'll be able to play in either a movie mode or an arcade mode. Movie mode combines all three game styles into one non-stop high-octane story

while arcade mode allows you to play any of the three game styles separately.

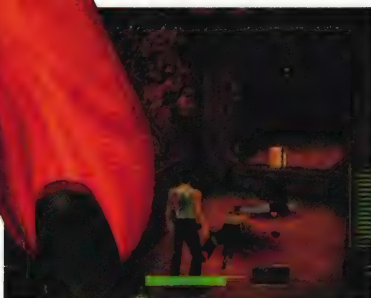
Plus It worked for the first one but isn't it just too similar? We'll see



■ This is the high-speed pursuit part of the game



■ This man uses a flamethrower in a confined space. Is he insane?



■ McClane uses the kill-first, ask-questions-later method



■ It's dark, you're in a disused warehouse, what's the chances there are terrorists there too?

■ OUT JULY ■ BY ELECTRONIC ARTS ■ PLAYERS 1-4
 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, MULTITAP

Sled Storm

Turbo-charged snowmobiles hit the slopes. Snowboarders flee in terror.

Apparently, out there in the snowy wastes are folks who just don't find snowboarding dangerous enough. So they climb astride steroid-pumped turbosleds that can do 70mph and blast round white-knuckle SnoCross courses where the sleds can jump 60ft into the air. And courtesy of PlayStation, you can check out this kerazey sport in the safety of your living room.

Snow-based aggro

There's six SnoCross tracks and eight open mountain tracks to blast around. Hidden within the courses are multiple shortcuts to

help you shave seconds off your lap time. There's also ample opportunity to catch air and pull tricks, earning you points which can be cashed in for upgrades. But it's no Sunday drive: the other drivers are firmly of the Dick Dastardly school of racing, and it'd be impolite not to join in by smacking your fellow Sledgers into trees, walls and snowdrifts. Mmm. Lovely mayhem.

plus Do we need another snow-based racing game? Possibly not. But if they manage to make it fast, exciting and fun will anybody complain?



■ Stunt action. The harder they come...



■ Pull off acrobatics while you fly to gain extra points. More points means more upgrades



■ Cool-looking replays are all part of the fun. Very tasty, very sweet



■ The graphics are just as sharp in the split-screen two-player mode



■ Check this out. It looks like V-Rally 2's started a fashion here: mondo cool four-player action

■ OUT JULY ■ BY THQ ■ PLAYERS 1-2
 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Castrol Honda Superbike Racing

Get your kicks from racing on two wheels? Then this could be for you...

Bike racers on the 'Station have largely been crap. Dunno why. They just mostly end up being rubbish. And here comes Castrol Honda Superbike Racing. It's got all the real bikes from the Castrol championships. It's got hectic-as-you-like 20-man races. Can it have the class to succeed where so many have failed?

Official stuff

The idea's simple enough - jump on the back of a meaty Honda RC45 and thrash it round tons of purpose built courses and tight 'n' twisty street circuits. Beat the 20-ish opponents and you're rewarded with the proper Motegi Honda test circuit, souped-up cycles and race winning hints 'n' tips from the real Castrol Honda team. Great for die hard bike racing fans, but it won't be everyone's cup of engine oil.

plus Not looking too hot. The racing action is a bit slow and f-e-r-h-y of the minute. But hey, it's early days yet.



■ Some of the purpose-built courses are cool



■ You start off on a fairly crap bike, but move up to the really big mothers...



■ A real Castrol Honda bloke. Why doesn't he just use the centre stand?



■ Hit the grass at speed and you're history



■ In each race, there'll be 20 people to beat



■ First-person view's always ideal for that 'Jesus Christ I'm horizontal' motorbike feeling



■ Check 'em. All the real licensed bikes are here



■ Lean into the bends early to ensure success



■ Cutting inside people is mucho necessary



■ But where's his hands? First person mode. Odd



■ With that many bikers out on the track, the action can get pretty hectic



■ The two-player's your standard one-on-one racing affair: looking a bit slow at the moment

■ OUT SUMMER ■ BY PROJECT 2 ■ PLAYERS 1
■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Plane Crazy

The worst pun in the world? Quite possibly.

Planes, racing over all sorts of obstacle-littered courses, shooting each other with comedy guns and speed-boosting their way to victory. Like the Wacky Races in the air. But without the laughs.

...not to mention 'zany'

The planes range from nippy little crop duster efforts to huge big four-engined bombers. Each of them has their own range of weapons, and each of them handles differently. Even the big ones are fairly zippy though, which is kind of handy considering how hardcore the courses are...

...and 'madcap'

Inbetween zipping through valleys and under bridges shooting folks, you'll have to swoop and dive to pick up speed boosts, since the whole thing's against the clock. And every time you total your plane it'll cost you valuable seconds...

A bit of a plane Jane on the looks front, and the gameplay isn't looking too hot at the moment either



■ Fly through blue things to boost your speed



■ The later courses are ridiculously hard



■ Use missiles, big energy storms and machine guns to bring your opponents low



■ The city courses are way hard



■ And it's all against the clock too? Jeez...

Team Buddies

Crazy capers with a bunch of scrapping cartoon characters — that's Team Buddies

It goes a little something like this: you control a bunch of bean-shaped cartoon type characters. You wage war against similarly-shaped enemies who may look cute, but are in fact murderous psychos. Your aim is to collect crates, which are the key to the game. Why? Cos by combining the crates you can expand your troops, get

awesome weapons and acquire kick-ass vehicles. And then (and only then) you can pulverise your opponent.

Buddy war

Team Buddies is a fast-paced war strategy game for people who want added colour and excitement in their gaming diet. But don't be fooled by its cheeky, cheerful looks. Hidden within its 64 levels is a mean streak a mile wide. What looks like it'll swing it though, is the multiplayer mode allowing four players to tool up with a multitap and whup ass at the same time.

plus Looking a bit basic at the moment. But if they can create a fast-moving war strategy game with knockabout laffs, they'll be onto a winner



■ We're hoping it ends up better-looking than this



■ It's taking its cue from Legoland



■ It's hard to believe this lot love war



■ Cute, granted. we want more than that though



■ This looks basic. Gameplay ahoy, then



■ OUT NOVEMBER ■ BY ACTIVISION ■ PLAYERS 1-2
 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Vigilante 8: Second Offence

The first one left a bloodied tyre tread in its wake, the follow up aims to finish the job

The first Vigilante 8 was a real hit on the 'Station. The heady brew of far-out vehicles, awesome weapons and totally destructible environments got our pulses racing big-style. Petrol-driven death matches had never been so much fun.

Loud and proud

As the phrase goes 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. So you can expect more of the same, except bigger, louder and better-looking. This means spanking new characters, racing new vehicles, in new arenas and what'll be quite possibly the last word in road rage.

plus We loved the first, so we'll be made up if the second's even better. From what we've seen it's looking good.



■ If the last game was anything to go by, this bus will be used to smash up other vehicles



■ We dig the industrial look, and big trucks



■ Lush backgrounds, meaty trucks, if they add a healthy dose of high-octane fun we'll be made up



■ It looks so desolate, where's everyone else?



■ There's no expense spared with the sets. Nice

■ OUT DECEMBER ■ BY SONY ■ PLAYERS 1-4
 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD, MULTITAP

Crash team Racing

Crash and burn rubber, this super-cool, über-cute racer is speeding your way!

This could be the fastest, most fun racer on the PlayStation. Yup, cuddly Crash takes a break from platforming, to climb inside a tiny cart and race against a load of familiar faces. In fact every character from each of the previous Crash games makes an appearance, and who you choose as a racer affects the way your cart handles. Fat, heavy characters like big ol' Papu Papu stick to the track, but what small drivers like Coco lack in handling, they more than make up for it in speed.

Awesome multiplayer

There are five game modes, essentially broken down into single and multiplayer games. Race on your own and you go up against five other guys steaming around a total of 20 tracks. These circuits have the same sharp visual style of the previous Crash games, with loads of variation in both the power-ups and environments you race on. The bonuses come into their own in the multiplayer, firing off rockets and dropping mines in a desperate battle to come first.

plus Crash Team Racing's fast and fun, and boasts some awesome power-ups to play around with. It's the four-player game we really like though - you will too.



■ Crash Racer plays fast and good. We like



■ Loads of tracks are promised



■ There are stacks of power-ups on offer, including turbo boosts, weapons and, um, apples



■ Learn to powerslide if you wanna win



■ Crash through the boxes for goodies

■ OUT SEPTEMBER ■ BY INFOGRAMES ■ PLAYERS 1 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

Rally Masters

Will Rally Masters spit gravel in the face of V-Rally 2 and Colin McRae?

Colin McRae eat your heart out. Just as we thought we'd worn out our 'Gosh' and 'Wow' glands over V-Rally 2, here comes another rally effort that looks like it's going to rock the kasbah. It's licenced off a real rally championship, so there's all sorts of special events, and real cars ranging from Formula 2 to historic efforts. And it looks absolutely blinding.

Plenty of stuff

Rally Masters is very much on a 'proper' rallying tip: most of the time it's just you out there on the track, racing against a time set by a computer car exactly the same as yours. And with hyper-realistic suspension and handling, sharp-as-you-like graphics and 70 cars to cane round 50 tracks, this is looking ace to the power of skill.

This fella's up against some hefty competition, but it's a contender.



■ The way the dust sprays off the road is cool



■ The handling's absolutely spot on



■ There's a massive range of cars here



■ Replays are well smart



■ Twitchy steering makes cornering tricky



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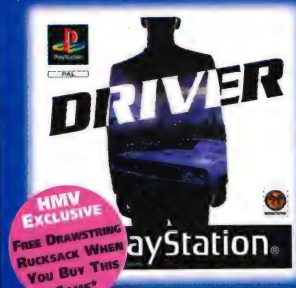
Parking prices:
 £4 cars
 £10 coaches

DAILY
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HMV

the challenge continues...



DRIVER

With a brand new 3-D engine facilitating strikingly accurate car dynamics and crashes, you can finally experience all the speed and exhilaration of classic movie car chases. As an undercover cop, you play a hired getaway driver on the streets of four real American cities. Speed down busy high streets, race across junctions and smash down alleys stacked with garbage. Engage in the ultimate car chase at your peril!



ANCO

PlayStation

PLAYER MANAGER SEASON '98 - '99

When the key to success is results on the pitch, buying the best players is simply not enough. 'Player Manager' provides a wealth of in-depth operational data, as well as the analytical tools to assess over 7000 players on and off the pitch. Includes all season '98 - '99 players and clubs, all European and domestic competitions, all British Leagues and a fully viewable 3-D match engine with correct club kits.

topdogforgames



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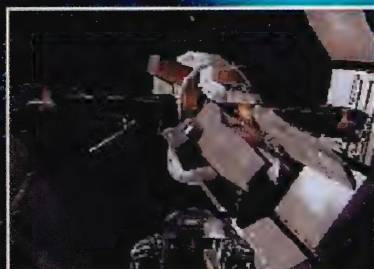
*All titles and offers are subject to availability at participating stores while stocks last.

News Just In

Vintage blasting

Space battles ahoy!

Star Ixium's a deep-space blaster from the folks who brought you ancient shoot 'em ups like Galaga. There are strategic bits where you choose which bad guys to go head-to-head with, and there are shooty bits where you dogfight to the death in space. Early days, but it's looking good.



■ Take on huge space guns. And win



■ In the strategic bit, you'll have to kill satellites



■ Go head on against massive battle stations in your tiny spaceship

'Tenchu!' 'Bless you'

First peek at Tenchu 2: we're drooling already

We've seen the first shots of the sequel to the awesome ninja stealth 'em up Tenchu, and they're looking mighty fine. You can now swim places rather than just dying when you fall into water. We're also promised more special ninja gear to play around with and loads of new baddies to test your swords out on. Graphics have been given a lovely '99 respray, plus there are stacks of secrets to discover. Class, all in all. Our hopes are high for this one.



■ Bushido battling a go-go. Katanas out, lads



■ Underwater stealth action is now part of the fun. Keep your dagger handy

Formula 1 99

Best-selling racing series revs up for another year of action

F1 '99 is fairly oozing with promise. For starters, the blokes responsible for the highly disappointing F1 '98 have been given the red card and it's being done by an all-new programming posse. And we've promised many fine things: sharper graphics, more realistic handling and a totally new crash system. Artificial intelligence is the biggest improvement though, so expect the opposition to drive pretty aggressively and use wily starting-grid tactics.



■ Handling's been brushed up for '99



■ The drivers'll be a whole lot more intelligent this time



■ It'll have Villeneuve in it!



■ The wheels aren't octagonal any more! Yay!

G-POLICE WINNERS



■ Envy glands at the ready. We've got three lucky geezas right here who've each won 500 quid's worth of exclusive Diesel G-Police gear, thanks to smart software

blokes Psynosis. So put your hands together for Lee McLeod (pictured) from Manchester, Hove bloke James Mason and David Richards from Kidderminster. And if you fancy your chances in a class Plus compo, turn to page 63.



■ You could've won this lot if you'd entered

360 G-SHOCK COMPO



WIN

Want a G-Shock watch, a copy of 360, a T-Shirt, a sweat-shirt and a glowing yoyo? Send a postcard to PlayStation Plus, 338-346 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7QP, and tell us how many days are in a leap year. Is it 336, 356 or 386? Oh, don't forget your name and address, OK?

■ G-Shock watch. Babe magnet included

HMV

the challenge continues...



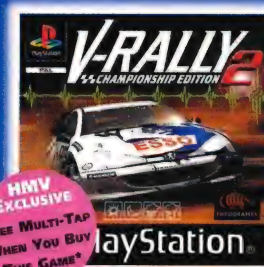
HMV EXCLUSIVE
FREE STAR WARS
POSTER WHEN
YOU BUY THIS
GAME*

PlayStation

STAR WARS: EPISODE 1 THE PHANTOM MENACE

Turmoil has engulfed the Galactic Republic. The greedy Trade Federation has stopped all shipping to the small planet of Naboo, hoping to resolve the matter with a blockade of deadly battleships. This is your chance to take part in the epic events from 'Star Wars: Episode 1' whilst assuming the roles of Obi-Wan Kenobi, Qui-Gon Jinn, Queen Amidala and Captain Panaka.

Available from September



HMV EXCLUSIVE
FREE MULTI-TAP
WHEN YOU BUY
THIS GAME*

PlayStation

V-RALLY 2

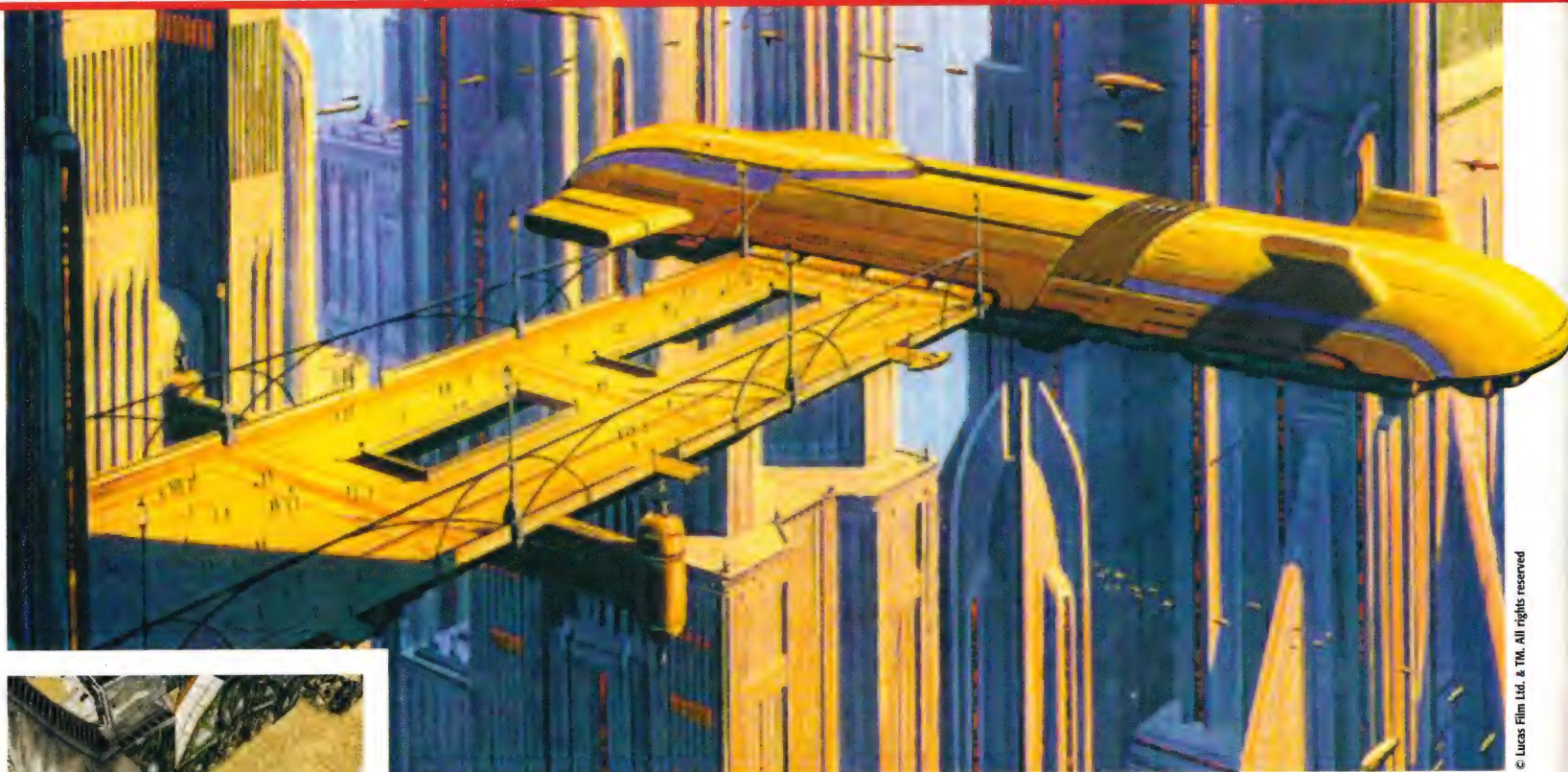
Not satisfied with setting the benchmark in '97 and '98, the creators of 'V-Rally 2' go a whole step further and are set to change the future of gaming altogether. Features 20 official cars, a brand new 3-D engine enabling improved car dynamics and collision system, 92 tracks over 12 different countries, unprecedented realism, full dual shock compatibility and much much more. The unique track editor and 4-player mode will provide never ending challenges, guaranteed to be the showcase of any console.

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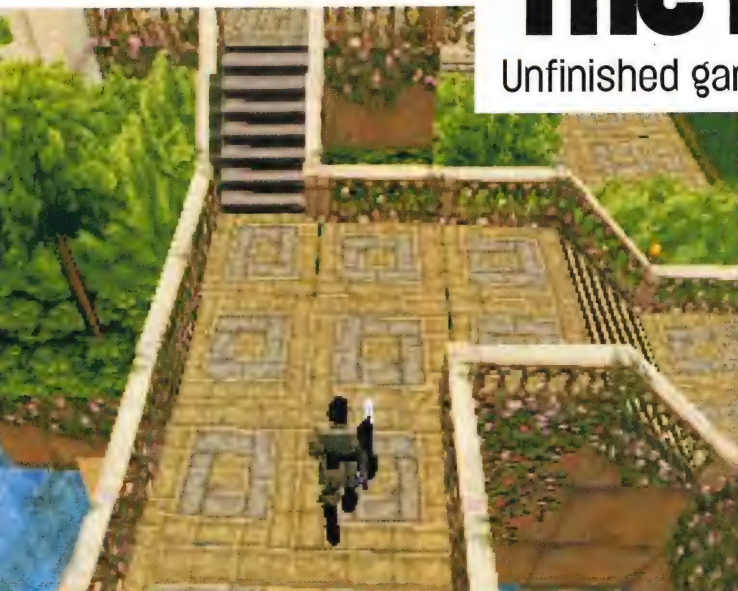
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■ Apparently it's only 30 per cent complete

Star Wars: Episode 1 The Phantom Menace

Unfinished game of hyped-up movie delayed till August



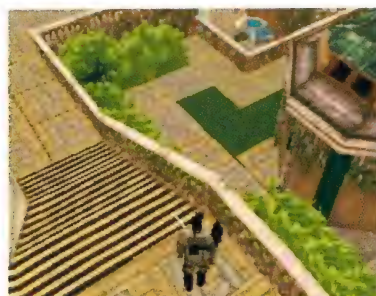
■ It's early days but we don't think the game's gonna live up to the hype



■ The graphics don't look too hot at the moment

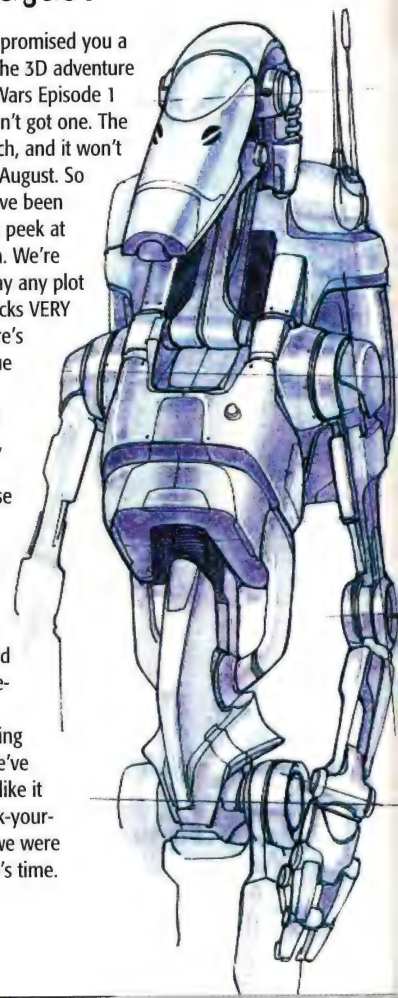


■ You can block laser bolts with your lightsaber. And y'know what? It's easy



■ Play as Obi-Wan, the Queen or Qui-Gon Jinn

Sorry, lads. We promised you a full review of the 3D adventure game of Star Wars Episode 1 this ish. And we haven't got one. The game's slipped a touch, and it won't be hitting shelves till August. So no review, but we have been able to sneak a quick peek at an unfinished version. We're not going to give away any plot details here, but it sticks VERY close to the film: there's even slices of dialogue straight out of the celluloid version (but with different actors), with added new bits where you can choose what to say. Clever. Add to that a fair old mix of game styles – exploring, shooting, adventure-type wandering – and a few straight-out-the-film boss fights, and you've got an intriguing recipe. From what we've seen, it doesn't look like it has the kind of knock-your-socks-off gameplay we were hoping for, but there's time.



Bring da ruckus!

The Wu Tang are getting tough on a pad near you, muthafu...

Wu Tang: Shaolin Style's a beat 'em up based around the kung fu-obsessed New York hip hop overlords the Wu Tang Clan. You get to play each of the nine Wu Tang members who, it turns out, boast a surprising range of killer kung fu moves as well as their more widely acknowledged turntable and mic mastery. Ghostface Killa, Method Man and the gang will be cutting it up through ten arenas ranging from Staten Island, NYC, to ancient China. There's the usual one and two-player bits, plus a story mode where the Wu Tang take on the forces of an evil kung fu master, and we're promised three exclusive Wu tracks will feature along with old favourites.



■ Wu Tang swords are in evidence. But of course they are



■ The arenas are as dark and bloody as you'd expect



■ ODB gets one in the chops

HUGGY BEAR! IT REALLY IS!

■ ... and finally, here's Huggy Bear reading our mag. Huggy's the bad-ass underworld contact used by 70's cop types Starsky and Hutch. Back in the day, the Hugster was noted for his incredible taste in accessories: leopardskin trousers, zoot suits, pork pie hats – the full Monty. And now he's demonstrating his taste in PlayStation mags. Bless him.



■ See, Plus even gets a laugh when you're sitting on the bog

MY GAMES NIGHTMARE

■ **Nightmare Creatures 2** is looking like it's cut from very similar cloth to the original. Fine by us, since the first Nightmare Creatures' mix of exploration and ultra-bloody gothic monster chopping was very tasty indeed. New features include beefed-up baddies, improved powerups and sharper graphics. Interesting. Very interesting indeed.



■ Cue mucho sword-swinging, hordes of big toothed nasties and gore galore

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THE MIX: Stuff you need to know



■ One of Lara's four ads for SEAT cars. They get spicier



■ Lara's on the beach when her pager goes off...



■ Down by the docks. Lara gets chased by two motorbike goons



■ She uses a car to outwit 'em



■ It's just non-stop. Now the busty minx has a T-Rex on her tail!

LARA'S LIVE B

SHE'S HERE, SHE'S THERE, SHE'S EVERY BLEEDIN' WHERE. LARA'S LU

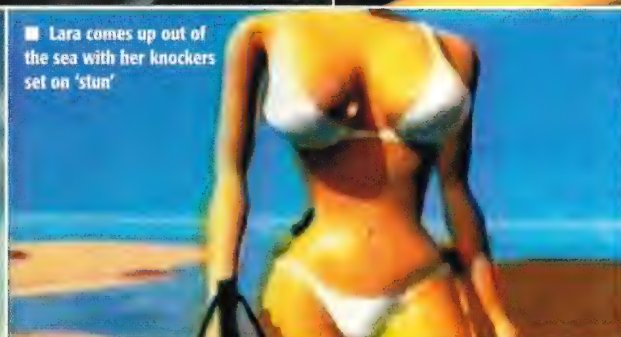
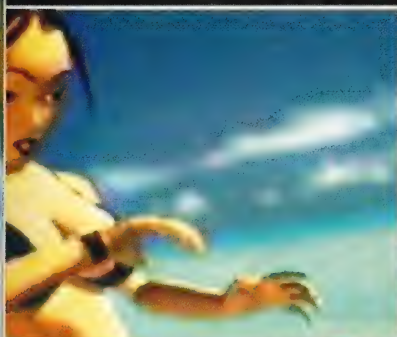
■ Lara does Lucozade. The only Lara ad we'll see in the UK... for now



■ Lara prepares to run from the motorbike goons using the jetski she keeps in the boot



■ Lara comes up out of the sea with her knockers set on 'stun'



■ Wolves! Lara flees across the ice in a family saloon



■ Stunt ahead! Lara revs for a jump as the chopper fires



IKINI ACTION!

COZADE ADS ARE COOL AS, BUT GET AN EYEFUL OF HER OTHER BITS

»

THE MIX: Stuff you need to know

The globe's gone Croft crazy! Around the world Lara ads are breaking out on the small screen. She's in French ads for cars, German ads for magazines and Brit ads for fizzy drinks. And she's stunning in all of them — almost.

C'EST LES ADVERTS FRANCAIS!

This is a French ad for SEAT cars, with Lara fighting off Tyrannosaurs in classic Tomb Raider style. It's all very much like the in-game video bits, and it even uses the same computer model of Lara. But since a good animator will take a week to do 3 seconds of computer animation for one character, we're talking thousands of pounds per second for this ad. And there's four in the series!



■ The dino's acceleration turns out to be rubbish



■ Lara escapes from the T-Rex at maximum revs



■ Stunt ramp: time to whip out a jetski

She's even got a menu system in the ads, just like she has in the games! But it's a selection of SEAT motors she gets to choose from. Even though you can buy SEATs over here, there's no chance these ads will hit British tellies: she 'doesn't fit', apparently.



■ Motorcycle buddies race in for the kill



■ Lara blasts out of the boot



Lara's escaped from the Tyrannosaur in a SEAT that she pulled out of her backpack. To deal with motorcycle goons and huge chasms she switches motors at blinding speed. Finally, she whips a SEAT estate out and gives a couple of surfers a lift home...



The folks at Core, who make Tomb Raider, say there's a possibility of more Lara ads or walk-on parts like she had in U2's Pop tour videos. A 'virtual' Lara is still being groomed for chat show appearances. But the Lara as you see here will definitely NOT be starring in the Tomb Raider film. That'll be a flesh and blood actress. More Lara news as we get it...

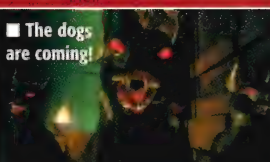


■ Finally Lara drives off in search of surfers





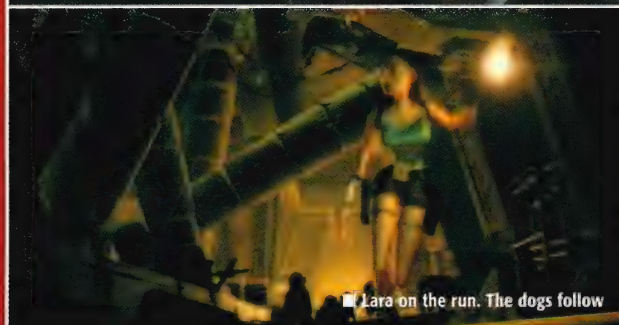
■ That's our girl. Good taste in guns



■ The dogs are coming!



■ Mmmm. Sugar



■ Lara on the run. The dogs follow



■ And voila. One quick stunt: no more dogs

LUCOZADE

The movie-quality Lara Lucozade ad is so good it should be made into a full-length blockbuster. Sadly, there's no plan for more TV Lucozade stuff featuring Ms Croft, although there'll be plenty more posters of Lara swilling fizzy liquid sugar.

BIG IN JAPAN

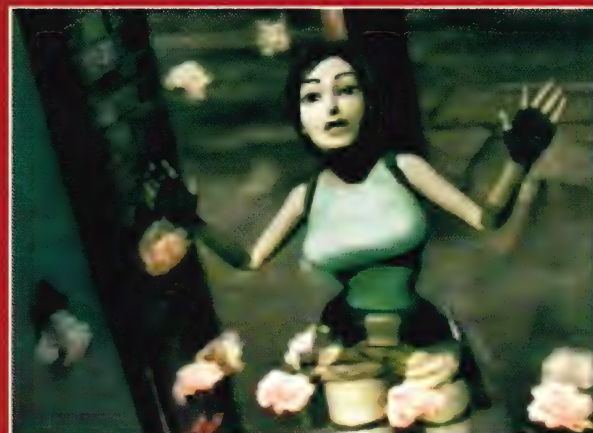
So what'll Lara advertise next? Well, we reckon a strong possibility would be Lara appearing in ads over in Japan: they're nuts about her over there, and there's a long tradition of Western big names appearing in Japanese ads on the quiet - Dennis Hopper advertises bath salts, and the Beatles' Ringo talks in Japanese about tinned fruit. Even the supposedly cool Brad Pitt does a fine line in uber-cheesy Jap jeans adverts. We'll bring you the lowdown as soon as Lara shows her face...



■ Liv Tyler advertising shampoo! Whatever next?

BRIGITTE

Think of Lara pressing her knockers to a plate glass window. That's what the lucky Germans get in this TV ad for a women's mag. But the feisty Lara we love ends up getting all gooey at the sight of a wedding dress. Eh? Get with the programme, Fritz. But as the ad says: 'Always surprising. The way women really are'. That's German humour for you.

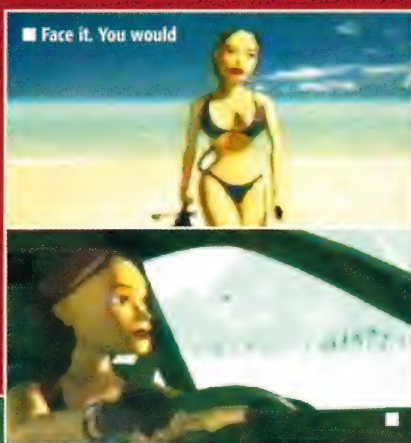


■ Lara's looking at a wedding dress. She 'unintentionally' displays her charms

MORE SEAT STUFF

Some of the SEAT ads are pretty saucy: in this one, a lecherous sunbather just about cooks in his own juice at the sight of a bikini-ed up Lara. But since she's a considerate sort, she forces him into a SEAT car using a harpoon gun so the super-duper air conditioning can cool him down.

And another one that's quite cool is the one where Lara's sitting on a beach, when her pager goes off. She's got to hit the gas in her SEAT to make sure she arrives inside this bloke's 'Station for a brisk bout of TR3. No semi-nudity on offer here, but it's still a touch of class.



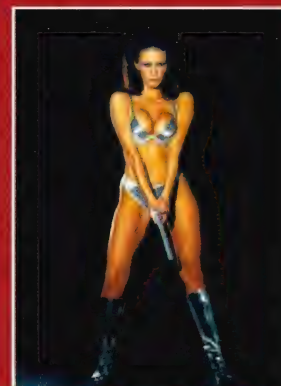
■ Face it. You would



■ A Lara-crazed sunbather steams up the inside of a SEAT after Lara locks him inside

HELLO BOYS?

Enough of car ads and women's mags. What about the adverts we really want to see? Lara road-testing massage oil. Lara advertising tight O'Neill wetsuits. We asked the lingerie people Anne Summers whether they could see Lara fitting into their plans. And their undies. 'Lara's definitely someone we could use, yeah,' they said. 'But maybe not for our normal frilly stuff: she's a bit too feisty and independent for that. She'd be good for our new Silver Goddess range: it's silver, skimpy, made of PVC and it's got real attitude.' Blimey. Roll on the Lara Silver Goddess campaign, we say.



■ It could be Lara in those undies!

Instant Expert

TIPS, CHEATS AND ADVICE FOR STACKS OF PLAYSTATION GAMES

V-Rally 2, Final Fantasy VII, TOCA 2 and stacks of other games ripped apart and tipped, so you'll never get stuck again. Damn we're good.

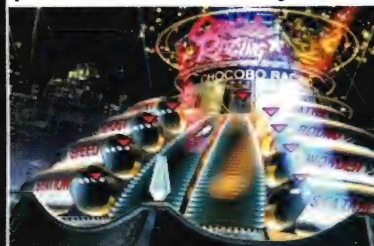
Tipped this month...

p46 V-Rally 2



■ Quick tips to getting ahead of your mates or just for winning in one-player

p50 Final Fantasy VII



■ Breed the best chocobos in Final Fantasy VII. It's easy with our bird-hatching guide

p53 TOCA 2



■ Stuck in a rut in this saloon car star? Then use our wad of cheats to get you started

V-RALLY 2 **PART 1**

V-Rally 2 is the most awesome multiplayer racer ever to hit the 'Station. Wanna know how to thrash your mates every time? Then we'll see you right.



DETAILS

GAME:	V-Rally 2
PRICE:	£39.99
COMPANY:	Infogrames
REVIEWED:	This issue
SCORE:	84%
VERDICT:	Unbeatable four-player fun

p53 Metal Gear Solid

p54 Gex: Deep Cover

p55 Vigilante 8

p56 C&C: Red Alert

p56 MediEvil

SHORT CUTS

The simplest way to get ahead in the Arcade and V-Rally Trophy modes is to use the shortcuts. They're quite tricky to negotiate but it will save you valuable seconds. Find out exactly where they are located by studying the mini map on the replays and listening to the co-driver's directions



■ Shortcuts are highlighted on this map



■ Shortcuts are a lot tougher than the normal track but will save you quite a bit of a time

LATE BRAKING

Braking is critical if you want to get ahead. Rally cars have excellent brakes (especially the WRC cars) so you can leave it till the very last moment to apply them. This is an important skill to pick up as precious seconds can be gained or lost when braking for the corners.



■ Tap the brake late into corners to ease past the rest of the field



■ The key is to use the brake softly. In fact you won't always need it if you turn early enough



■ If all else fails, ram the other cars to prevent yourself from flying off the course

CAR SELECTION

It's always worth taking notice of the type of circuit you're going to be racing on before selecting your rally car. If it's a winding circuit with few long straights, you're best off choosing a short wheel base car (Toyota Corolla, Peugeot 206, Ford Focus) with a short gear ratio for maximum acceleration.



■ The Toyota Corolla is a top motor



■ The Ford Focus looks a bit crap, but for tight 'n' twisty circuits it simply can't be beaten



■ The Peugeot 206 has wicked acceleration

CONTROL PADS

The type of control pad you use is very important. The Dual Shock Pad gives you the realistic feedback from the bumpy terrain, but the normal pad is actually far more accurate.



■ The analogue sticks are fine, but for total control we reckon you should stick to the standard Dpad

Instant Expert: V-Rally 2

SUSPENSION

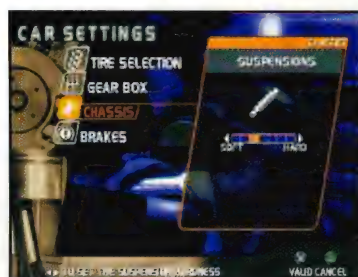
When racing on the muddy tracks in either Championship or Time Trial modes it's always a good idea to soften the car's suspension. This will give you a greater level of grip on the uneven surfaces.



■ Softening the suspension enables you to ride the bumps without losing too much speed



■ Grip is essential if you want to get ahead



■ Visit the car settings screen to tweak your car

REPAIR SHOP

At the end of a rally you're given a limited amount of time to mend your battered motor. A good idea here is to focus on the steering first, as this is by far the most important aspect of your car.



■ That'll be the steering knackered then



■ Visit the service area to repair your motor



■ Keeping your rally car in decent nick is essential if you're to stand any chance of winning



■ Chuffed with his new motor, Colin McRae couldn't help showing off in front off the girls

HANDBRAKE TURNS

A lot of time is lost on hairpin bends. The best way to tackle them is to avoid using the normal brakes. Instead, tap the handbrake when entering the corner and the rear of the car will slide around perfectly. You'll need to practice though.



■ Forget normal brakes, use the handbrake for tricky hairpins



■ Just dab the handbrake or you'll lose too much speed



■ Slide around the corners

SNOWY COURSES SORTED

As you'd expect, the Swedish rally courses are covered in thick snow and are a real nightmare to negotiate. A good tip is to avoid braking and simply skid around the corners, reducing your speed slightly. This way you manage to keep your momentum on the exit of the corner.



■ A four-wheel drive car is best for snow



■ Don't bother braking for the corners - turn in early enough and you'll slide around perfectly

CORNERING

The line you take into a corner is very important. The trick is to turn in from the outside of the track and hug the inside of the corner, before drifting wide as you accelerate out. Be careful of those grass verges though - clip 'em and your car is likely to flip over.



■ Turn from the outside of the track into the corner and try to clip the inside of the track



■ Push the pedal to the floor coming out of the corner and drift out to the side of the track

VIEWS

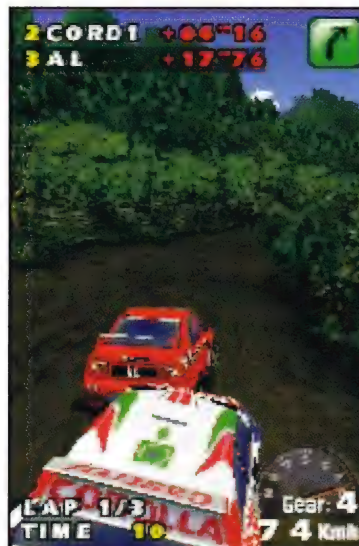
In a head-to-head race against a mate, select the out-of-car perspective to get a better view of the track ahead. This way you get to see the hazards it's too late, and have a chance to react.



■ The view on the left is far more helpful



■ You can see the hazards ahead from here



■ Vertical split-screen allows you to see more of the track than the horizontal split



GEARS



■ You get more control with manual gears

Manual gears give you more control over your motor than automatic gears. You can drop down gears instead of braking - the advantage being that it keeps the revs high through a corner so you come out screaming rather than crawling. Again, this technique is not for beginners.



■ Use the manual gears instead of the brakes to slow your car down for the corners

FINAL FANTASY VII

This game is huge. And there's one thing that challenges vets and newbies alike: how to deal with chocobos. And they're essential. So check out our guide to getting the best out of your feathered friend.

DIFFERENT TYPES

There's five different types of chocobos. All have different abilities. Here's the lowdown on the different colours - where they can go, and what they can do...



■ Where you meet your first chocobo

YELLOW CHOCOBO

These are the bog-standard variety. They can be found anywhere you see claw-prints on the ground. They range from 'weak' to 'wonderful'. Use the 'chocobo Lure' materia to catch them.

GREEN CHOCOBO

A special breed of chocobo that can cross any mountain range

BLUE CHOCOBO

These can cross shallow water.

BLACK CHOCOBO

Can cross mountains and shallow water.

GOLD CHOCOBO

The ultimate breed that can cross anything, anywhere, anytime.



■ Blue chocobo: can paddle through water



■ A black chocobo: one step away from gold



■ Choco Billy is the man to speak to about chocobos

BREEDING TIPS

- 1 Max each bird's stats out by feeding them full of Sylkis greens, then race them to S class. You stand a better chance of breeding a special bird if you do.
- 2 Always save before breeding in case you don't get what you want first time.

- 3 With each 'special' bird you can get access to one of four special hidden materia caves. Each one has an ultra-rare materia in them, including the ass-kicking 'Knights of the Round', which you can only get with a gold chocobo.

BREEDING SPECIAL CHOCOBOS

GREEN & BLUE

Breed two 'great' chocobos using a carob nut to get either a green or blue chocobo.

BLACK

Breed a blue and a green bird together using a carob nut. This is tricky, so it'll take a few tries.

GOLD

Breed a black bird and a bird you've raced/bred up to 'wonderful'. You'll have to use a zeio nut, which you get from the chocobo sage in the mountains.



■ This is your goal. Study it well

HOW TO RACE YOUR CHOCOBO



■ If you want to do some racing, then this is the place to go

- 1 Speak to Ester for riding instructions
- 2 Constantly hold down **R1** and **L1** to reduce your stamina loss by 50% no matter how fast your bird runs
- 3 Only peg it on the last two corners or you'll lose
- 4 Ignore the birds that tear off at the start. They'll burn out and lose every time. Be patient

- 5 Since you race for free, you can pick up lots of great items when you win. Prizes range from 1 GP to 2,000 GP. Items, accessories and rare materia are all there for the taking

- 6 For best results, use a Gold Chocobo to win every time

- 7 If you beat Joe and his black bird Teioh 14 times in a row, Ester gives you a special reward bundle.



■ It's not exactly the Grand National



■ There's plenty of free goodies if you win

Chocobo RACE CLASS C									
1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5	1-6	<div>YOSPEED84km</div> <div>STAMINA266</div> <div>NAMEANDY</div> <div>No. 1</div> <div>250595 Gil</div>				
2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	3-4					
3-5	3-6	4-5	4-6	5-6					
GIFT									
I Fire Fang									
II Phoenix Down									
III Tranquilizer									

- Make some money by having a little flutter

DETAILS

GAME: Final Fantasy VII
 PRICE: £19.99
 COMPANY: Squaresoft
 REVIEWED: June 99
 SCORE: 86%
 VERDICT: The King of RPG's

Q&A

We've got stacks of hints, tips and cheats hidden in our secret stash. If you've got a gaming problem, chances are we'll have the solution. So write in...

Platinum A-Z continued

N is for Need for Speed

There are two Platinum releases this month. C&C: Red Alert, and FIFA: Road to World Cup. Turn to our rated section for the lowdown on them, or check out the cheats on p56. Meanwhile, take a gander at the N's...

NEED FOR SPEED

RALLY MODE

ENTER **TSYBNS** AS YOUR PASSWORD, THEN ENTER THE HEAD-TO-HEAD MODE. GO TO YOUR FAVOURITE TRACK. HOLD DOWN **L1** + **R1** TO SEE THE TITLE CHANGE TO RALLY MODE. PRESS **START** TO ENTER.

WARRIOR SUPER CAR

ENTER **TSYBNS** AS YOUR PASSWORD. IN HEAD-TO-HEAD MODE, GO TO THE CAR SELECTION SCREEN AND HOLD DOWN **L1** + **R1**. YOU SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO SELECT THE WARRIOR CAR.

MACHINE GUN

THIS NEAT LITTLE CHEAT REPLACES YOUR HORN WITH A MACHINEGUN, HANDY FOR ALL THOSE PESKY OPPONENTS. FIRST CHOOSE HEAD-TO-HEAD MODE. AFTER SELECTING YOUR OPPONENT'S CAR, PUSH AND HOLD **L1** + **START**, UNTIL LOADING IS COMPLETE.



■ This is the Warrior super car. To say it's fast is understating it a little. It's lightning quick

ARCADE MODE

FOR AN ARCADE MODE GO TO LAP CHOICE MENU, THEN PRESS AND HOLD **L1** + **R1**.

EXTRA WEIGHT

GO TO TOURNAMENT MODE AND ENTER THE PASSWORD **TSYBNS**. AT THE CAR SELECTION SCREEN, SELECT CAR SHOWCASE, THEN MECHANICAL. NOW SELECT NEXT SLIDE. YOU CAN NOW ADD EXTRA WEIGHT TO THE CAR YOU'RE VIEWING, SHOWN BY A NUMBER OF RED TRIANGLES AT EITHER END. PRESS **L1** TO ADD WEIGHT TO THE FRONT OF THE CAR, AND **R1** FOR THE REAR. THIS'LL MAKE YOUR CAR TURN MORE SHARPLY.

LOST VEGAS TRACK

ACCESS TOURNAMENT MODE AND ENTER THE PASSWORD: **TSYBNS**. GO TO THE HEAD-TO-HEAD GAME. THE LOST VEGAS TRACK WILL NOW BE SELECTABLE IN THE TRACK SELECT SCREEN.

PASSWORDS

TRACK 1	WRDRTY
TRACK 2	ZDPBWN
TRACK 3	MTQRZP
TRACK 4	JVPZLL
TRACK 5	ZYMNLU
TRACK 6	WMRPGZ
LOST VEGAS	YXGSH
TRACK 8	KJPQND
TRACK 9	SDQWCG
TRACK 10	SLZXDH
TRACK 11	SPZDFX
TRACK 12	ZVGRGX
TRACK 13	XJHVCK

TOCA 2

Rocka Toca

Give me a T, give me an O, give me a C, give me an A, Give me a 2. What do you get? The best driving sequel to grace the laser's eye. But the eye requests cheats, so could you grace us? Ta luv.
Duncan Tarrel

Such command of the English language, it nearly brought a tear to our collective eye. How could we turn down one so eloquent. Just one thing though Duncan, don't call us luv, ok poppet? Take it away...

MICRO MACHINES VIEW

MINICARS

BOUNCY BARRIERS

PADDED

LOW GRAVITY

LUNAR

PROPELLER HEAD CHAMPIONSHIP

LONGLONG

NO KICK OUT OF CHAMP

PUNCHY

BATTLE MODE

BANGBANG

FRAME LOCK IN QUALIFICATION

TECHLOCK

BOUNCY CRASHES

BCASTLE

O.T.T. CRASHES

DUBBED

STRETCH TRACK VERTICALLY

ELASTIC

BLUR HORIZONS

TRIPPY

WHEELS ONLY (NO CAR BODY)

JUSTFEET

FASTER

FASTBOY

OULTON PARK ISLAND CIRCUIT

DINKYBIT



■ Bouncy mode: fun for about a second



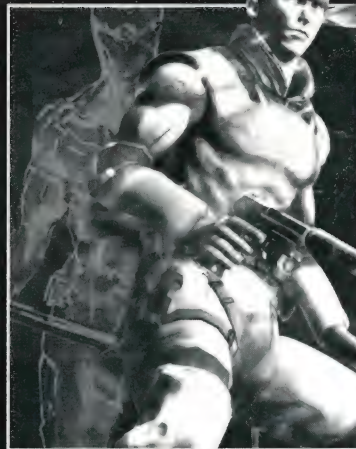
■ Oulton Park, nice track, shame about the rain

Metal Gear Solid

How the f**k do you kill the ninja in Metal Gear?

Kevin Lamont

Kevin, calm down. Help is but a paragraph away...



■ Behind you. Snake, Snaaaaaake, Snaaaaaaake



■ Forget guns, this is a job for Mr Fist...



■ He'll want to hide when you've spanked him

Forget weapons with his guy, take him on with your dukes. He'll put away his sword, allowing you to get in close and pummel his mush. The best tactic to use is to run up to him, throw a couple of punches and a kick, then back off to avoid his counter-attack.

When half his energy has gone, he'll kick in his cloak suit and hide. It's not so difficult to find him, and when you do lash out before he gets the chance to retaliate.

When his suit starts to spark, you know this guy's toast. Whip out your FAMAS and unleash lead to finish him off.



■ When he's on his last legs, get your gun out

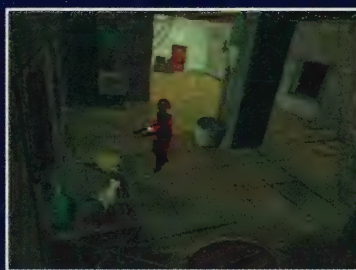
Alone in the Dark

Just in the dark

On Alone in the Dark, I've got to the underground clock room and killed the baddie, but don't know what to do next. Can you help?

Scott Nunez

First off, take the dead bad guy's shotgun, book and flask. Go behind the grandfather clock. Use the crank to open the secret passage. Get the shells. To get rid of the musician tear up his notes. Take the hook. You'll hear shots being fired. Wait by the door and shoot the first man. Walk backwards a little and kill the second man. Align the four diamond cards to open the door. How's that?



■ It's one of those games that requires a brain while playing. A disadvantage for some

Instant Expert: Your problems solved

New games, new cheats

And we don't stop

Yep, it's true: getting cheats is a 24-7 pastime. Our handpicked team of trained monkeys work around the clock to find you the best cheats around. So spare a thought and send a banana. Meanwhile, over to you Bubbles...

NASCAR 99

To get these extra drivers select single race from the main menu. Now you've got to choose the relevant track for the desired driver. For example Bobby Allison for the Charlotte track. Highlight select car and enter the following codes:

BOBBY ALLISON - CHARLOTTE TRACK

◀ ▶ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ L1 L2 R2 R1

DAVEY ALLISON - TALLADEGA TRACK

⬅ ➡ R1 ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ L2 R2

ALAN KULWICKI - BRISTOL (DAY) TRACK

R1 R1 R2 R2 ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

CALE YARBOROUGH - DARLINGTON TRACK

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

RICHARD PETTY - MARTINSVILLE TRACK

⬅ ➡ R1 ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ L1 R1

BENNY PARSONS - RICHMOND TRACK

R2 R2 L1 L1 L2 L2 R1 R1 R2 L1

GEX: DEEP COVER GECKO

DEBUG MODE

TO ACTIVATE THE DEBUG MODE, PAUSE THE GAME, HOLD **R2** AND PRESS

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

IF YOU'VE DONE THIS CHEAT RIGHT YOU SHOULD HEAR A NOISE. WHEN YOU UNPAUSE THE GAME YOU SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO SOME REALLY USEFUL GOODIES, LIKE A LEVEL SELECT.

INVINCIBILITY

FOR SOME HANDY INVINCIBILITY PAUSE THE GAME, THEN HOLD **R2** AND PRESS

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡. BINGO, YOU GOT YOURSELF A HE-MAN GEX.

HILARIOUS COMMENTS

TO MAKE GEX SAY A HOST OF ABSOLUTELY 'HILARIOUS' COMMENTS (NOTE IRONY, THERE) PAUSE THE GAME, HOLD **R2** AND PRESS

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡. PRESS **SEL** TO ACCESS GEX'S ONE-LINERS.

OTHER CHEATS

IF YOU COLLECT ALL FOUR VAULT COLLECTIBLES FROM THE SECRET LEVELS YOU'LL OPEN UP THE GEX VAULT IN THE GEX CAVE. THERE YOU CAN ENTER THESE CHEATS:

TEN LIVES

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

PLAY AS ALFRED

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

PLAY AS CUZ

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

EIGHT HIT PAWS

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

VIEW FMV 1

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

VIEW FMV 2

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

VIEW FMV 3

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡

VIEW ALL FMV

⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡ ⬅ ➡



■ This is one reptile who's happiest on the piste...

NEED FOR SPEED: ROAD CHALLENGE

Enter these codes at the name player screen:

PHANTOM CAR

ENTER YOUR NAME AS **FLASH**

HELICOPTER CAR

ENTER YOUR NAME AS **WHIRLY**

TITAN HOTROD

ENTER YOUR NAME AS **HOTROD**



■ As driven by men with no hair and a burning desire to turn back the clock - sorry Dad

WARZONE 2100

To access these cheats insert a controller in port two. Hold down **ST** on the second controller until the memory card check screen appears. During the main title menu or while ingame and paused enter the following code: **L1 R1 R2 L1 SEL ST**. This adds campaign two and three to the main menu options and activates the following codes via controller two:

- ⬅ ➡ **MAKES EVERYTHING VISIBLE**
- ⬅ ➡ **INFINITE POWER**
- ⬅ ➡ **MAKES ALL ITEMS AVAILABLE**
- SEL** **GO TO NEXT LEVEL** DURING PLAY
- R1** **ADD STRUCTURES**
- R2** **ADD FEATURES**
- ⬅ ➡ **SUPER DROID STRENGTH**
- ⬅ ➡ **WEAK DROID STRENGTH**
- ⬅ ➡ **FINISHES ANY ACTIVE RESEARCH**



■ Unless you're a superhuman gamer you'll need these cheats to get ahead. Sad but true

Platinum A-Z continued

P is for Pandemonium and Porsche Challenge

PANDEMONIUM

LEVEL PASSWORDS

LEVEL 1	AKKABHIL	LEVEL 10	AHCAHIL
LEVEL 2	EPIJAKCA	LEVEL 11	FBIIAKCK
LEVEL 3	EDUANCY	LEVEL 12	TDIANDC
LEVEL 4	KOCCIEE	LEVEL 13	FFIIAKDK
LEVEL 5	KTAIBU	LEVEL 14	KACACBA
LEVEL 6	NIIAJCB	LEVEL 15	ADMCAID
LEVEL 7	KGCACIC	LEVEL 16	EMHIERE
LEVEL 8	AHICBAJE	LEVEL 17	OEIBIBMJ
LEVEL 9	AHICATG	LEVEL 18	FAAJACE

CHEAT PASSWORDS

BOATFEE	INANDOUT
FOR A LEVEL SELECT	QUITTING RETURNS PLAYER TO MAP SCREEN
NABOOGY	THEYING
FOR INVINCIBILITY	MUTATE BODY USING L2 , L2 + X TO RESET
VITAMINS	BOYSWAP
FOR 31 EXTRA LIVES	SWAP CHARACTERS IN GAME BY PRESSING A
CORONARY	TWISTEVE
FOR EXTRA HEARTS	HOLD L1 + L2 , D-PAD ROTATES SCREEN
OUTPIRE	CASHDASH
FOR PERMANENT SPECIAL WEAPONS	GREED GAME WHEN LEVEL IS COMPLETE
EYILDEAR	TOMMYBOY
FOR IMMORTAL ENEMIES	PINBALL GAME WHEN LEVEL IS COMPLETE



PANDEMONIUM 2

INVINCIBILITY

ENTER THE PASSWORD **NEVERDIE**

PLAY ALL LEVELS

ENTER THE PASSWORD **OCMCKKEJ**

LEVEL SKIP

DURING THE GAME HOLD **L1** + **L2** + **R1** + **R2**

OPENS ALL LEVELS

ENTER THE PASSWORD **GETACCESS**

WACKY GRAPHICS

ENTER THE PASSWORD **ACIDDUDE**

BONUS ROUND

ENTER THE PASSWORD **SKATBORD**

PERMANENT WEAPONS

ENTER THE PASSWORD **MAKMYDAY**

■ Cheatin': how to get the best out of Nikki

PORSCHE CHALLENGE

Enter these cheats at the main menu screen:

END OF GAME SEQUENCE

□ **○**, **△** + **SEL**, **▶** + **SEL**

HAIR-EYE LENS

□ + **△** + **○**, **L1** **L2** **R2** **R1**

HIGH VOICES

▲ **▲** **▲** **▲**

HYPER CAR

SEL + **□**, **SEL** + **○**, **SEL** + **▶** + **○**

INTERACTIVE TRACKS

▼ + **ST**, **▲** + **ST**, **SEL**, **ST**

UNLIMITED RETRIES

L1 + **L2**, **R1** + **R2** + **○**

LONG TRACKS

SEL + **▲**, **SEL** + **▼**, **ST**, **SEL**

MAD OPPONENTS

▲ **▲**, **▶** + **SEL**

MIRROR MODE

◀ + **○**, **▼** + **△**, **▶** + **○**

ALL CARS JUMP

▲ + **○**, **▲** + **○**, **▲** + **○**, **▲** + **○**

▲ + **○**, **▲** + **○**, **▲** + **○**

TEST DRIVER'S BLACK PORSCHE

▶ + **○**, **▲** + **○** + **SEL**

TUNE TEST DRIVER

◀ + **○**, **▶** + **○** + **SEL**

USED CAR JUMPS

□ **○** **○**

INVISIBLE CAR

□ + **○**, **L2** + **R2**, **□** + **○**

L1 + **R1**, **□** + **○**



■ Get all the cars and the tracks. All by cheating!

Gear Guru

When, where and how

It's quite a novel one really. How do you guys actually get all these cheats?

James Courtney

PS2 Ah, you're the type of kid who asked 'where does the telly picture come from?', or who asked your mum why dad always stares at ladies with short skirts when you go out shopping with him. Well, you know what curiosity caused? We would like to tell you, but we'd have to kill you straight after. Rest sure in the knowledge that we get them, and we will carry on getting them.

Can you tell me when Rainbow Six is out on the PlayStation?

Tim Barker

PS2 Expect it around September time.

Please could you tell me the release dates for Quake 2 and Hard Edge?

Paul Bithall

PS2 We think around July for Quake 2 and Hard Edge should be in your shops now, so go and buy it.



■ Stare? Us? Don't be silly. She's got a kilt on

Vigilante 8

Vigilante 8, Baddies 0

Please, please give me some cheats for the most excellent Vigilante 8. I need them.

Telly DeFratis

PS2 Telly, how cool is your name? Like, very. You're quite right, Vigilante 8 is an excellent game, worthy of prime cheatlets we'd say.

UNLOCK ARENAS & CHARACTERS

GO TO 'GAME STATUS' IN THE OPTIONS SCREEN. PRESS **X** AND THEN **○** TO ENTER THE PASSWORD SCREEN. ENTER: **WMNNWLHTSCUCLH**. ALL TRACKS SHOULD NOW BE OPEN FOR ARCADE AND QUEST MODES. IN QUEST MODE, ALL ARENAS AND ALL CHARACTERS ARE AVAILABLE (EXCEPT 'Y' THE ALIEN). IN ARCADE MODE EVERYTHING'S AVAILABLE, INCLUDING THE ALIEN.

GENERAL CHEATS

CHOOSE ANY CHARACTER AND ENTER THE PASSWORD FOR THE CHEAT YOU WANT

INVINCIBILITY

WILL NOT DIE

VIEW FMV

SEE ALL MOVIES

SELECT SAME VEHICLE 2 PLAYER MODE

SAME CHARACTER

EXPERT MODE

HARDEST OF ALL

BIG WHEELS

MONSTER WHEELS

HOMING MISSILE POWER-UP

DEADLY MISSILE

LOW GRAVITY

REDUCE GRAVITY

Soviet Strike

Dear PlayStation Plus, Love the magazine and the sexy girls. Could you please help me with clues to Soviet Strike? Cheers.

Serrie

PS2 It really is sad how we're such suckers for a compliment. You could compliment us on the quality of our full stops or how all the words in the mag make sense and we would start blushing and no doubt hand over whatever you were asking for. We are tarts, pure and simple. So here you are, you silver tongued so and so...

INFINITE CHOPPERS

GO TO THE PASSWORD SCREEN AND ENTER: **ELVIS LIVES** THEN PRESS **X**. YOU'LL HEAR A GUNSHOT IF THE CHEAT HAS WORKED.

EXTRA LIVES

GO TO THE PASSWORD SCREEN AND ENTER: **NOSFERATU**. THEN PRESS **X**. THIS STARTS YOU ON THE SAME LEVEL YOU JUST PLAYED, BUT WITH SEVEN LIVES INSTEAD OF THREE.

MORE POWERFUL WEAPONS

GO TO THE PASSWORD SCREEN AND ENTER: **DAVEDITH**. THEN PRESS **X**.

CAMPAIGN PASSWORDS

CAMPAIGN 1 WORSTCASE
CAMPAIGN 2 GRANDTHEFT
CAMPAIGN 3 GROZNEY
CAMPAIGN 4 CHERNOBYL
CAMPAIGN 5 CIVILWAR



■ The sweet smell of napalm. Nothing like it

Instant Expert: Your problems solved

Platinum forthcoming

C&C: Red Alert

SOVIET PASSWORDS

LEVEL 2	17DUXF8C
LEVEL 3	VMBWQ284
LEVEL 4	XN37MCC50
LEVEL 5	LH06FZZQL
LEVEL 6	BVVV20LFF
LEVEL 7	AVYQ10YA8
LEVEL 8	LZRTMQAN
LEVEL 9	YQX4C9GFH
LEVEL 10	1QES08LE0
LEVEL 11	RKP0UOXJA
LEVEL 12	CDLKYL7Q4
LEVEL 13	8T5GGDK25
LEVEL 14	X5CDE0KN8

ALLIED PASSWORDS

LEVEL 2	1795WDNVK
LEVEL 3	3AH5VCCYG
LEVEL 4	X63VC9XII
LEVEL 5	DV795V0EE
LEVEL 6	17DCFX278
LEVEL 7	90BAZDHP3
LEVEL 8	9000DSRSH
LEVEL 9	SRS8OSSQT
LEVEL 10	550SL9GZ8
LEVEL 11	HFZNFE4HS
LEVEL 12	5RN72KIA4
LEVEL 13	3AS0QJC80
LEVEL 14	59EVS6K6I



■ Roam the world playing your trade as a war mongerer. Not much of a social life, but what a blast

Cyber-helpery

Geek Speak

Stuck at work with nothing to do? Why not try these sites, they're packed with gaming goodness. And they're free...

<http://www.game-revolution.com/content.htm>
<http://www.ugo.net/OAS/ugo/try-it.cgi>
<http://www.segasages.com>
<http://www.widearea.co.uk/playstation.coolsites.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/siliconvalley/vista/1289/tips.html>
<http://www.a-p-i.net/absolute-playstation/tips/acheats.htm>

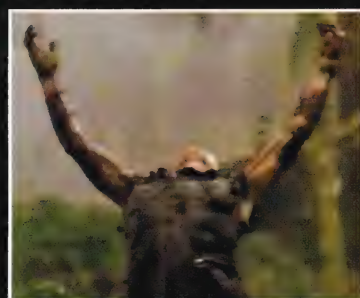


■ What style...

Help

Sometimes even we can't help with your game problems. Hard to believe, we know.

So here are the phone numbers to all the big-name software houses, taking you straight to their devoted cheats line or technical support. Remember to ask the permission of whoever pays the phone bill.



ACCLAIM	09068 303330
ACTIVISION	01895 456700
TAKE 2/BMG	01429 855046
CODEMASTERS	01926 816044
ELECTRONIC ARTS	0906 753253
EIDOS	0121 3560831
GREMLIN	01142 799 020
GT INTERACTIVE	0891 669910
INTERPLAY	0839 662666
JVC	0171 240 3121
KONAMI	09014 747484
MICROPROSE	01454 893900
NAMCO	0881 505505
PSYGNOSIS	0151 282 3333
SONY	0881 505505
TELSTAR	01932 232299
THQ	07071 223388
UBI SOFT	0181 944 9000

■ To the skies he appealed for the grace of an unseen deity. 'Try ringing up,' said the God

Reboot

Glitch please

Got any cheats for Reboot, I'm stuck on level eight. I'd prefer infinite lives and infinite weapons and glitch energy. Thanks.

Steve G

plus Give these a try, they might just be the very thing you're looking for...

RESTORE GLITCH ENERGY

AT THE MAIN MENU PRESS:

→ L1 ↑ ↓ ↓ L1 R1 ↑ ↓ ↓

PLAY AS ENZO

AT THE MAIN MENU PRESS:

↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ L1 R1 → ↓ ↓ ↓. START A NEW GAME TO PLAY AS ENZO

BEST WEAPON

AT THE MAIN MENU PRESS:

↑ L1 ↓ ↑ ↓ R1 L2 ↓ ↓ ↓

SHIELDS

AT THE MAIN MENU PRESS:

↓ R1 ↑ ↓ ↓ L2 R2 ↑ ↓ ↓. AN EXTRA SHIELD WILL APPEAR WITH EVERY GLITCH. YOU CAN'T USE THIS CODE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE RESTORE GLITCH ENERGY CODE.

FLYING

AT THE MAIN MENU PRESS:

↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ R2 L1 ↑ ↓ ↓. NOW HOLD THE (O) BUTTON TO FLY INTO THE AIR.

Pool Shark

Are there any cheats for Pool Shark?

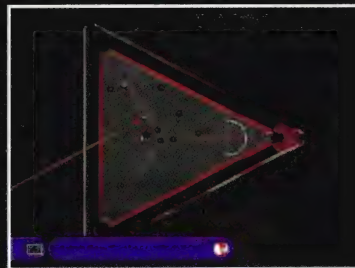
Dave Barber

plus There sure are Dave, Sharpen your cue on these:

ALL TABLES AND LOCATIONS

NAME EITHER PLAYER AS CW12 AAP. GO BACK TO THE MATCH OPTIONS, WHERE ALL SORTS OF POOL ACTION AWAITS YOU.

■ Snookered at the red, go for the br...



Medieval

Smiley happy people

Please can you help me. I'm on the Asylum grounds level. But I don't know what to do on the puzzle with the happy and sad faces. It's driving me mad.

Matthew Brown

plus What you've got to do is hit all the faces so they're all one movement away from smiling. Now, quickly as you can hit them all. You can do two at once if you stand between two. It's very tricky, so keep at it.



■ The early dismembered head gets the worm. Or so they say



■ First get the faces one turn from smiling



■ It'll take quick reflexes and heaps of patience

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JOYPAD



■ Watch the road. But which one?

MACHINE

When did you last smell fried clutches and burning rubber in Gran Turismo? You will if you canne this PlayStation-equipped VeeDub

If you want the ultimate force feedback experience try this — a trick £600 PlayStation fitted to a sonic and electronic-laden set of wheels. This VW Passat has been pumped full of audio-visual kit by top in-car entertainment mob Kenwood. It's got everything from satellite navigation to a six MiniDisc autochanger.

But the best bits are the two 7in by 4in TV screens fitted to the rear of the front seat headrests (£800 each to you sah!), the flipdown TV screen in the front and the customised PlayStation sunk neatly into the parcel shelf behind the back seats.

Full-on gaming thrills are jacked to new levels with the awesome sound system throughout the car — imagine the Dolby Surround Sound of Colony Wars blasting through the £3,000 floor-mounted amp and 10in Canton sub-woofers in the boot.

There are a couple of companies who specialise in fitting PlayStations to your car. Auto Alternatives (0181 795 3822) say prices of fitted PlayStations with infrared joypads start at around £580.

Prestige (0181 868 3300) say you must get your console modded to 12 volts (prices start at around £75), followed by installation at around £100. The TV screens cost a cool £500-£600 each and installing them around £250 per headrest.

If you want an easy life buy the whole wagon. But brace your bank manager — we reckon it's worth a useful £30,000.



■ Joypads slot neatly into the back of the armrest



■ This 'Station with special Lara paint can cost more than £600 because it needs a new power board and vibration-isolation system fitted so it works properly on the move



■ The sensitive and pricey LCD screens on the headrests have shutters to protect them. Open 'em up and Colin McRae rocks!



■ These custom paint joypads have conventional plugs but cable-free infrared versions are available



■ The Passat – sheep on the outside, fully technoed-up woofer-wolf on the inside

OTHER NEAT KIT INSIDE

Kenwood have kitted the Passat out with more than just a mobile 'Station. Check out the rest of the mods:

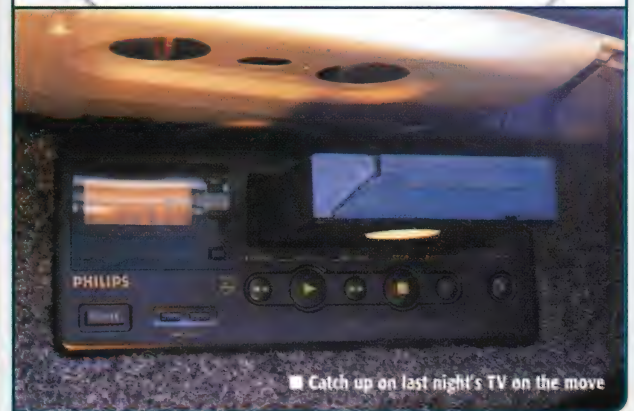
- A pop-up £2,500 satellite navigation system with a 5.8in LCD touch-screen
- A £400 ten-disc autochange CD system is in the boot linked to a dashboard-mounted £300 controller
- CD-quality radio can be had via the £1,000 Kenwood Digital Audio Broadcasting receiver
- A £300 Philips video player is in the boot.



■ A game? In fact it's a navigation gizmo



■ These woofers'll growl some

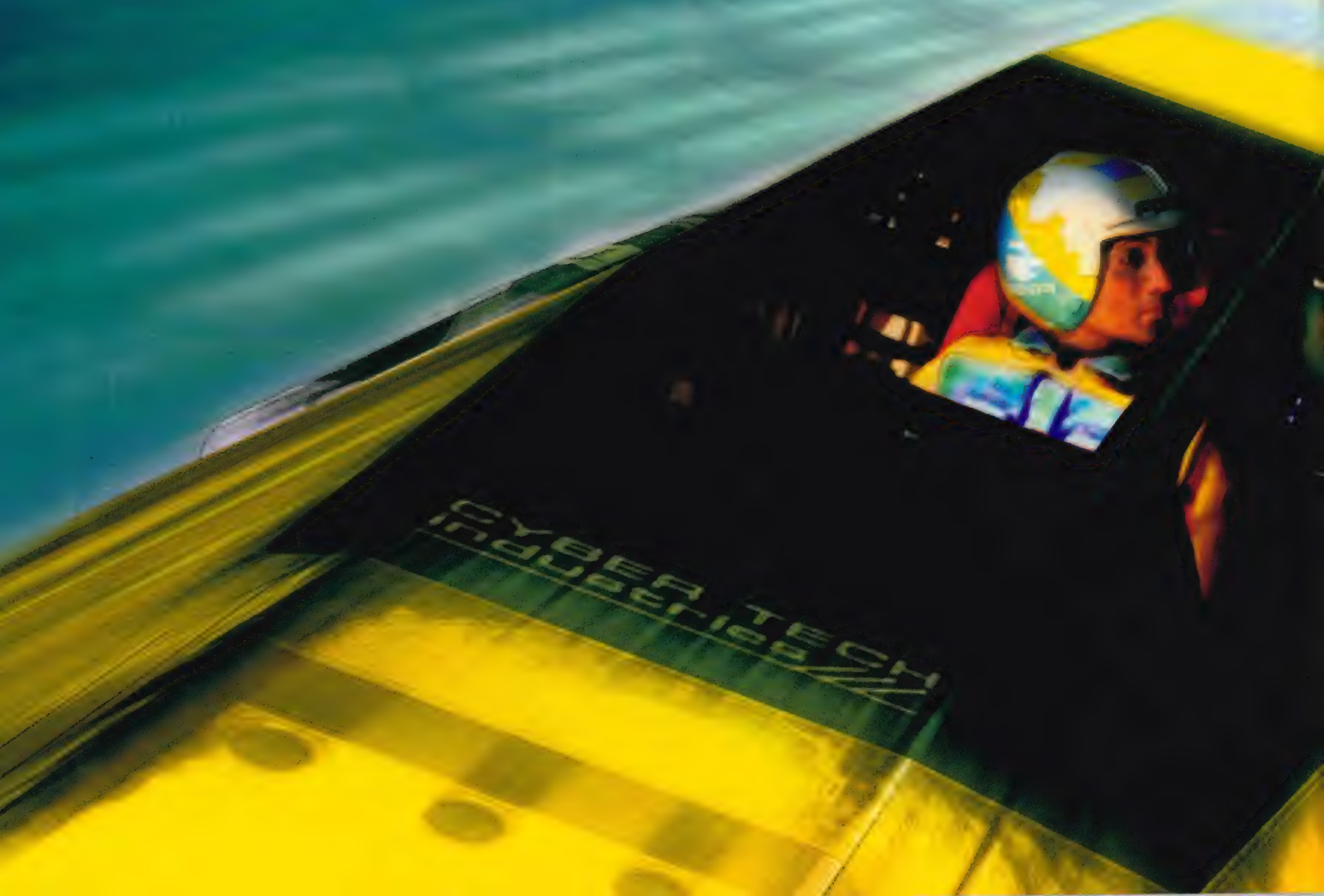


■ Catch up on last night's TV on the move

The Works: Wip3out first look

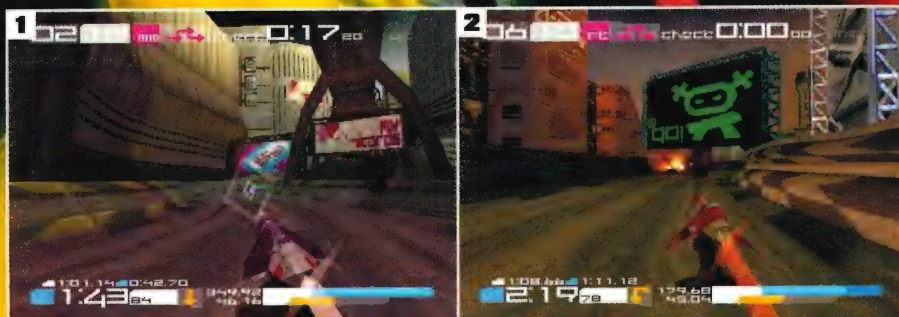
twisting FLYER STAM

Three years in the making, the sequel we've all been waiting for is looking even better than we'd thought.



WIP

Cane super-fast hoverships round racetracks that make the rides at Alton Towers look pussy-assed. Bulls-eye other ships with waves of laser death. Use your thrust to blast over heart-stopping chasms. If you haven't played a Wipeout game before, you should've. If you have, believe us, this sequel will blow you away...



1 All-new power-ups and weapons 2 There are loads of new tracks 3 Compared to Wipeout 2097, this baby has a real Blade Runner feel to it

The Works: Wip3out first look

Three years in the making

This is the third in the series. It's been a long wait since number two: almost three years. But fans won't be disappointed. And there's plenty of stuff to tempt WipEout virgins. Higher speeds than any other 'Station racing game, eye-wateringly big guns and stonking magnetic tracks which twist and dive through a lush sci-fi city. Very tasty. Very sweet.



■ The new high-resolution graphics are lush



■ And the new tracks and crafts are coolio



■ Plenty of ships, all going like the clappers. And all in pin sharp graphics. Birthday!

What's the big idea?

You pilot an anti-gravity spaceship which hovers about ten feet above a magnetic track. Playing for one of seven teams, each with different styles of craft, you race over the most hardcore rollercoaster-esque tracks you'll see on the 'Station. Add to that a fine selection of death-dealing weaponry and a soundtrack of hooj techno choons and you've got a mouth-watering little recipe.



■ Zip through tracks in a dark sci fi city



■ Race hard while listening to the large sounds of Euro-house top boy Sasha and his pals. Bangin'

Music, sweet music

One of the reasons the first two WipEouts were so cool was that they blended super-swish sci fi visuals with a soundtrack of premium techno: at their best, they looked and sounded just like top-quality rave vids. The same's true for part three: top Euro-house bodger Sasha has been roped in to be 'musical director' and we're promised exclusive tracks from the man himself, plus loads of tracks from other dance top dogs chosen by him. Sweet.



■ Sasha: top house bloke does the soundtrack

The look

The look's actually quite subtle here: it's a far cry from the clashing fluorescent colours you saw in the first WipEout. Here, all the effort's gone into making the game drip with sci-fi ambience and making the detail level higher. Bye bye raver's nightmare: hello high-resolution super-snazzy late 90s eye candy. Cool.



■ Everything on the tracks is picked out in super-high resolution. Luvvity



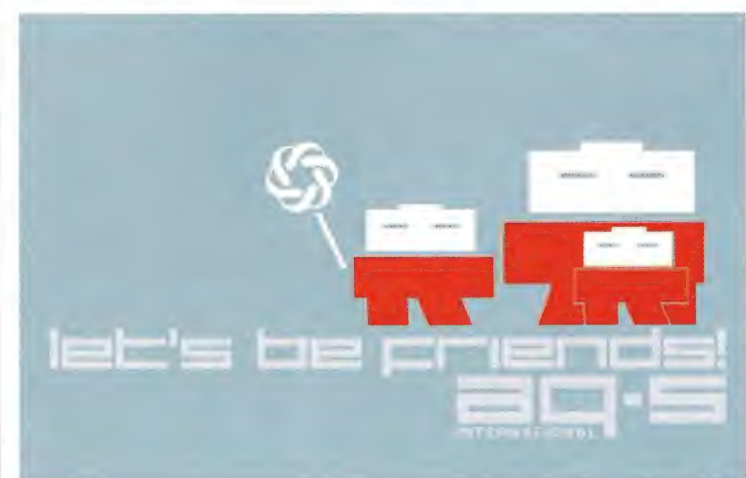
■ Believable sci fi locations? Believe it



■ Blade Runner goes racing



■ There are loads of indoor tracks in there



■ Even the WipEout logos and stuff have a nice über-trendy late 90s feel

'Race on hardcore rollercoaster tracks'

The guns

Swerving to get power-ups is all part of the fun. For your gaming pleasure, there are five of the weapons from WipeOut 2097 (but with beefed-up graphics), plus seven all-new ones. They range from Autopilot bonuses that make driving easier, to energy barriers and even old faves like enormous missiles and laser guns.



■ Energy barrier. If you hit it, it hurts bad



■ Homing missiles do their deadly work



■ The energy wave weapons will cruise up the track taking out the people in front

The tracks

The tracks in the new game boast massive banked turns, huge yawning drops and corkscrew bends all over the shop. And the speed's been upped since the last version. Yikes. Since the further you get in the nuttier the tracks become, expect action more frantic than last orders down the methadone clinic. Just the way we like it.



■ Narrow, fast and crowded. This is gonna hurt



■ You'll need to use the air brakes to make it round some corners



■ Cardiac arrest is a common side-effect of your average WipeOut jump



■ The early tracks are more straight up. Win a few and it starts to get ugly

Handling

In the first two WipeOuts, if your steering was on the money, you'd glide beautifully round the courses, banking gently into the turns. If it wasn't, you'd keep clunking off the walls like a muppet. And it was kind of difficult to graduate to being a black-belt WipeOuter. Here, we've promised a more gentle learning curve, but with upper difficulty levels that'll challenge the hardest of the hardcore.



■ Slick fly-past by a WipeOut vet



■ In confined spaces, weapons are deadly



■ The handling's a lot less twitchy this time round. But corners like this will still hurt you



■ Oi! Mind out for the wall, muppet! Well-practiced WipeOuters streak off into the distance

Super Mitsubishi!

Each of the teams has its own vehicle. None of them depart TOO radically from the tried-and-true 'flying arrowheads with guns on' look, but you'll notice a massive difference in handling between different teams' ships. Some are tailored for beginners, but are a bit lacking in the speed department. Others are custom-made for pinhole-sphinctered no-sleep-till-expert-mode WipeOut showoffs.



■ At the start it's best to stick to slow ships



■ As you get flashier, try out different teams



■ Fast ships handle like crashed bobsleighs



■ Slower ships turn smoothly and easily

The Works: Wip3out first look

How cool is that?

One of the things that WipEout and WipEout 2097 lacked was a two-player mode. Sure, you could play link-up games, but only if you could be arsed lugging a 'Station and a telly round to a mate. Here, you get a proper split-screen two-player mode (with the option for either a vertical or horizontal split), that's as fast and smooth as the one-player. Bingo.



■ Line your mate up in your sights and let rip



■ Here's your chance to show off your finely honed anti-gravity piloting skills



■ Take your best ships out to the track and find out who's the Daddy



■ There's a full field of racers on there with you so things stay hectic



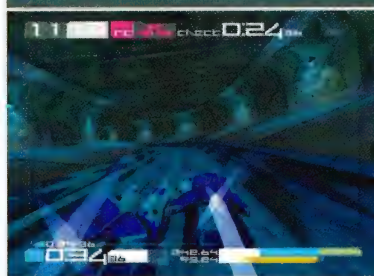
■ In the final version you'll have the option of both a horizontal and a vertical split screen

Radars of the lost ark

A new feature clocking up high points on the coolometer is the addition of a radar system. You'll be able to see when other craft are coming up behind you so you can deploy your more sneaky weapons like mines and energy barriers right in front of them. This feature isn't certain to make it into the final version, but keep your fingers crossed 'cos we like it a lot.



■ You'll be able to use your radar to see people who are set to tailgate you



■ Mines. Tailor made for blokes behind you



■ Being shot from behind? Radar 'em, then kill!

plus We'd like to say...

It's been so long since the last WipEout game we'd forgotten how brilliant the games were, and this looks like it's going to top the lot. Superb visuals, superb sounds, sharp gameplay. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a Johnny-come-lately, this is going to blow your mind.

A word in your ear

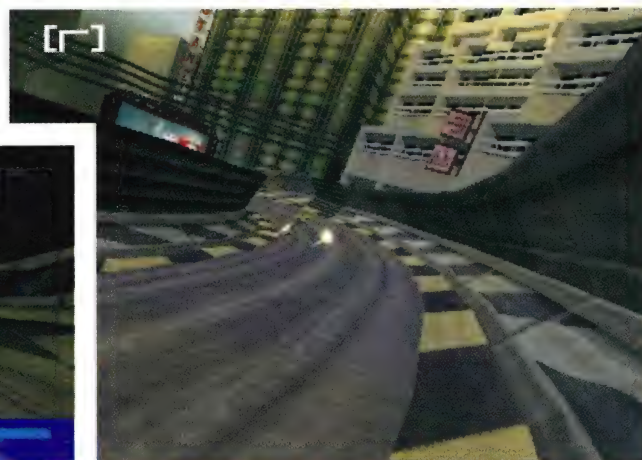
If you're thinking 'WipEout? What's that all about?', we've got some advice. Head down to your local game emporium to pick up WipEout 2097, the second one, at £20 a pop. It's worth it for the soundtrack alone - the Chemical Brothers, Prodigy and Future Sound of London. A fine way to tide yourself over till Wip3out's September 8th release, we reckon.



■ WipEout 2097: a classic of its time and still looking pretty good. The soundtrack has dated a bit, but it's still class



■ Wip3out: everything's looking just that little bit sharper. The speed's been upped and the tunes are up-to-date



■ Wip3out's still a few months off, so why not whet your appetite with the tasty £20 morsel that is 2097 on Platinum

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- Winners will be chosen at random and informed by Friday 9th July.

AREA 51 SCOOT ENTRY FORM

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HOW WE RATE STUFF

0-50%	Total toss	
51-60%	Just toss	
61-70%	Only okay	
71-80%	Good, not great	
81-90%	Almost classic	
91-100%	Essential play	
		
Good game, but maybe a bit limited, not worth buying	A great game (91% plus) you've just got to play	A range of games all reduced to the budget price of £19.99

Syphon Filter: more action than Metal Gear and cooler than James Bond.

plus **the Knowledge**

Be in the know with our no-bull scores on every PlayStation game ever released... **PLUS!** The latest gear, the best retro games, weird games you should get and stacks more. Starts p87

RATED THIS MONTH

- p66 Syphon Filter**
Awesome blaster in a James Bond-stylee
- p68 Evil Zone**
Psychos hack at each other with big swords
- p70 360**
Fly at breakneck speeds in tiny hoverships
- p72 Player Manager 98/99**
Can you take your team all the way to the top?
- p72 Ape Escape**
Catch dem cheeky chimps for loadsa laughs

- p74 Aeronauts**
Condemned crims battle it out in the air
- p76 Omega Boost**
Super-fast sci-fi shooter with robots
- p78 Formula 1 97**
Classic racer gets the £20 treatment
- p79 FIFA 98: RTWC**
World-class soccer at a bargain price
- p80 C&C: Red Alert**
Platinum-coated strategy action

Knowledge: updated every month

All Games Rated between 71%-100%

The best games

Game	Score	Game	Score	Game	Score
1. Syphon Filter	91%	2. Aeronauts	88%	3. Omega Boost	85%
4. Formula 1 97	82%	5. FIFA 98: RTWC	79%	6. C&C: Red Alert	76%
7. 360	73%	8. Evil Zone	70%	9. Player Manager 98/99	67%
10. Ape Escape	64%	11. Metal Gear Solid	61%	12. Gran Turismo Sport	58%
13. Tekken 3	55%	14. Street Fighter III: 3rd Strike	52%	15. Virtua Fighter 3	49%
16. Soul Edge	46%	17. Tekken 2	43%	18. Street Fighter II	40%
19. Tekken 1	37%	20. Street Fighter Alpha	34%	21. Street Fighter Zero	31%
22. Street Fighter EX	28%	23. Street Fighter Alpha 2	25%	24. Street Fighter Zero 2	22%
25. Street Fighter Zero 3	19%	26. Street Fighter Zero 4	16%	27. Street Fighter Zero 5	13%
28. Street Fighter Zero 6	10%	29. Street Fighter Zero 7	7%	30. Street Fighter Zero 8	4%

■ OUT JULY ■ BY SONY ■ COSTS £39.99 ■ PLAYERS 1 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

SYPHON FILTER

Imagine Metal Gear but bigger, badder and easier to play. Now get your £40 ready

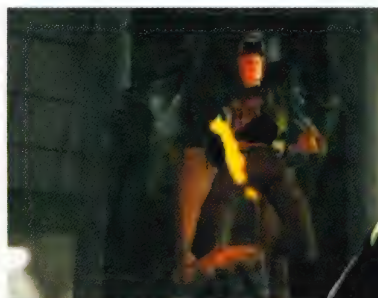
Some of the best games at the moment are 'stealth 'em ups'. Movie-style thrillers needing cunning as well as sniper skills. With the arrival of Syphon Filter you get all this with added polish, excitement and heart-pounding atmosphere.

The briefing

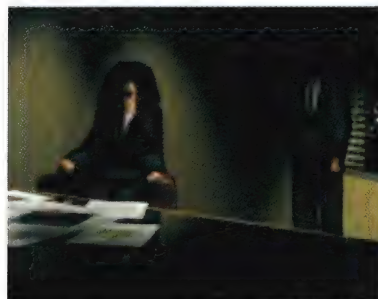
Syphon Filter doesn't stray from the saving-the-world-from-an-evil-overlord formula. Professional global terrorist Erich Rhoemer plans to unleash a biologically engineered super-virus called Syphon Filter. The action centres around Washington D.C, cradle of the American dream. You're Gabriel Logan, hero of this blockbusting spy thriller.



■ You pack heavy-hitting heat



■ Virus-toting guy you must assassinate



■ Should you trust your boss?



■ These thugs take no prisoners



A stealthy rage

Sneaking about places is all well and good, but sometimes you need to blow your cover and let loose with a bit of lead. Call it letting off steam.

Happily, Syphon Filter's got a bit of both going on. Sometimes it's stealth all the way. Other times it's a case of standing your ground, gritting your teeth and capping every last man-Jack of the enemy.



■ Bullet in the head and he's down

Fit kit

Like all self-respecting agents you are rock-hard. Your fingers fit snugly around the triggers of the best hand-held weaponry America has. And your armoury? How does this sound? Silenced 9mm, .45 handgun, G-18 pistol-machine gun, shotgun, M-16 assault rifle, snipers rifle, night-vision snipers rifle, Taser electrocutor, gas-grenades, C4 explosives and M-79 grenade launcher. Sounds tasty.



■ Shooting someone in the back – it's all part of being a secret agent



■ A cool sight, yes?



■ Infra-red sights, perfect for the dark



■ Gabriel gets around. One day America, the next Russia

What we like

Buckets of blood

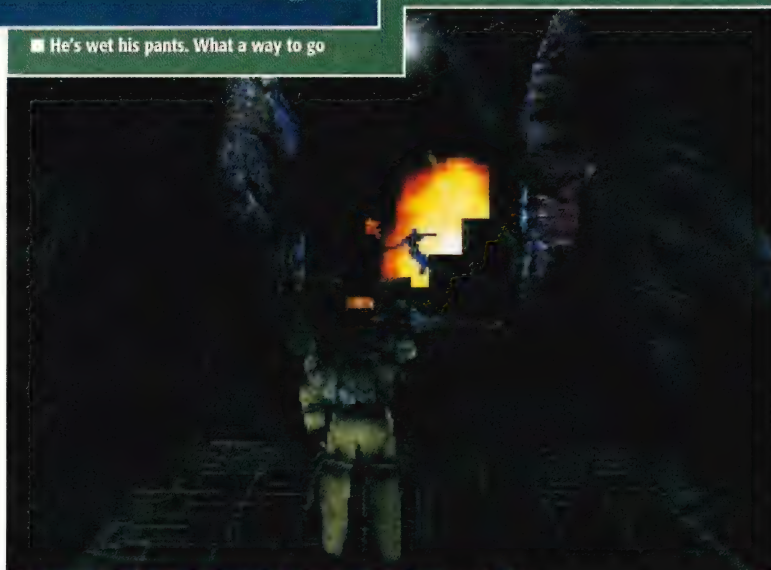
We could have waxed on about camera angles or stunning lighting effects. But it's the blood — oozing, spattering, seeping — which sticks in our brains. In a furious shoot-out a stray shot to the knee of your target spells a steadily expanding bloodstain. Likewise, a blast of buckshot at close range means gallons of claret.



■ He's wet his pants. What a way to go



■ It'll need more than a plaster to patch him up



■ Nasty stuff all this random blood-letting. Needless to say, we like it

Controls

If you're sneaking up on guards or enjoying a fire fight you need confidence in a decent control system. Syphon Filter gets it right. There are two aim modes. One fixes on the nearest target and is perfect for all-out fire fights. The other's a manual aim which works well for when you need to pick off your target with accuracy. Manoeuvring yourself is easy too because you can use the dual shock sticks which give great flexibility and sensitivity.



■ Close to a wall you can see through his head



■ Use the run sideways control to strafe goons



■ Hit the crouch button to stay out of view



■ Running in straight lines ain't a problem

Know thine enemy

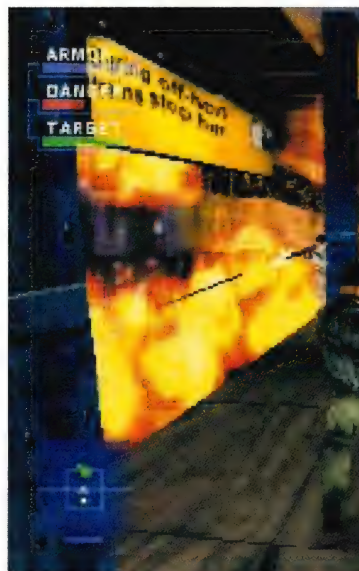
Eric Rhoemer's henchmen are mean, lean and, if your job's done right, stone cold dead into the bargain. But you've got to use your loaf 'cos these baddies are sussed. For instance, their body armour, proximity and weaponry dictates how quickly they'll go down. So if you use your manual sight and wait for a headshot the enemy'll hit the deck in one go. Whereas a guy with a flak jacket, at medium distance, will take some decking.



■ You've got to bide your time...



■ Flak jackets — the assassin's curse



■ Choose the right weapon for the right job. That's important, that is

plus

We'd like to say...

This is a peach. Not as jaw-dropping as Metal Gear, but it'll still take you to PlayStation heaven. Games like this inject real originality and style into your games collection and that's got to be good. Worth your cash.

Epic

Syphon Filter is an epic. There are 20 levels to chow down on, with numerous bosses along the way. And what's really cool is how a mission will have diversions added as the situation changes. This gives the game the feeling of a story unfolding with outside forces altering and changing the story as you play. We like it. We like it a lot.



■ It's all in here, city streets



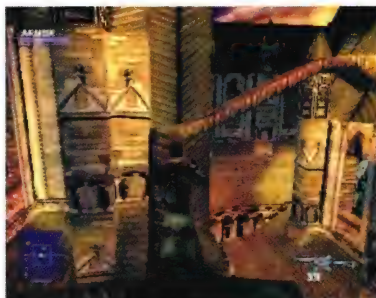
■ The local park, subway and this the museum

Eye candy rating

It's inevitable Syphon Filter will be compared to Metal Gear Solid, not least in the looks stakes. So we'll come out and say it: it doesn't look as good. But it's no dog either. And while Metal Gear looks stunning it's just too short. Syphon Filter is neither ugly or short. Just well balanced. And that's a promise. If you don't believe us take a gander at these...



■ You've got to watch out for the trains, they kill



■ This looks pretty damn tasty



■ How about this, looks ace doesn't it?

Take two

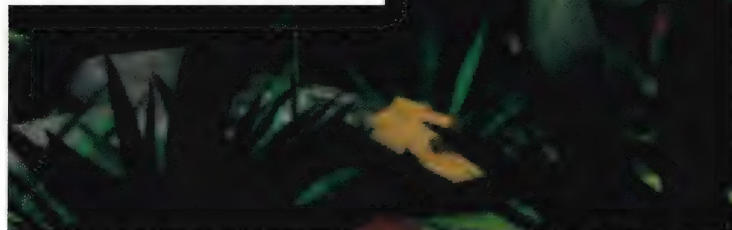
There's a fair sprinkling of cutscenes scattered through Syphon Filter. Like cheesy made-for-TV films, it comes with over-the-top American actors, laboured dialogue, chronic overacting and a twist of panto-esque nonsense. All perfectly harmless and it at least gives you time to get your head in gear for the next mission.



■ Rough and tumble with the boys in blue



■ There's some serious scheming going on here



■ Real emotion, please. Don't think you can get away with being hammy just 'cos it's a game



It's got all the right ingredients: a cool storyline, spot-on controls, lush graphics, ace weapons, excitement and spyadelic atmosphere. Rich

PlayStation
RATED 92%

■ OUT JUNE ■ BY DIGITAL INTERACTIVE ■ COSTS £39.99 ■ PLAYERS 1-2
■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD

EVIL ZONE

Some call it hell, they call it the Evil Zone. We call it a helluva waste of time

Some may say: 'ho, hum, another beat 'em up'. We say go back to pressing flowers, or whatever else hippies do. We like beat 'em ups. They're instant. They're like a burger: no waiting, no fuss. So is Evil Zone a Big Mac or a bit cack?

Simple fun

Where Evil Zone differs from other beat 'em ups – and what'll either sell it to you, or turn you off – is the simplified control system. Instead of having to use all your 'Station buttons, you use just two. Even your dad could handle that. No doubt you're all thinking how do you conjure up jaw-dropping combos. Read on...



■ It won't take long to get this good



■ She looks fragile but she'll whup your ass



■ Mild mannered clerk? Rampant psycho



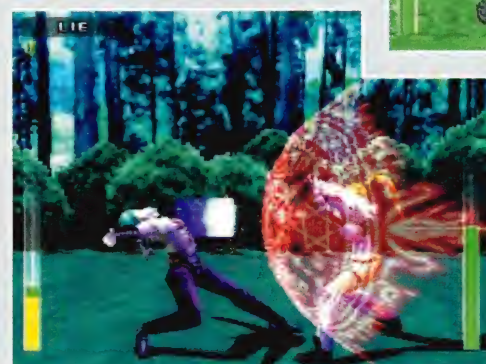
■ It must get hot in his outfit

Head turning?

With so much competition on the market any new beat 'em up has to be a stunner to catch our eye. Plain Jane's just get overlooked. Evil Zone certainly isn't Jane herself, she's her slightly better-looking sister. This is a compliment, but only just. The characters themselves are the usual mix of little Japanese girls, giant men and cyber punks. The phrase 'same old' springs to mind, as does 'playing it safe'.



■ Looks OK, but that's about it. No marks for graphic excellence



■ Is this what the future looks like?



■ Hey punk, make my day



■ After the bank swallowed his card, John resorted to hiring himself out as a human sofa

Power me up

So you have two buttons. One for attack and one for defence. How you press the direction button alters the fighting moves you make. So it's a case of remembering specific movements, which works really quite well. Added to this are character specific special moves. Once you've strung together a few moves they become active. Then you can unleash some truly bizarre special moves, such as these...



■ Is this satanic?



■ Keep your eye on the symbols, they mean kick ass is coming



■ In one



■ Dark, very dark



■ Are these killer hula-hoops? Now available in barbecue flavour

What we don't like

Creosote defences

As said earlier there's a button for defence. Sounds great eh? You can press it if your getting attacked. The only problem is it's all too easy to lean on the button like a cripple leans on his crutch. And this leads to a classic and rather dull stand-off.



■ OK, now take your finger OFF the defence button. Please?

plus

We'd like to say...

Like a lot of beat 'em ups this is average, with a capital A. There's nothing in it to make you spend £40 of your hard earned dosh. And that, dear reader, is the bottom line. If this was a school report it would finish with the tried and trusted line 'must try harder'.

Silk or cotton

We want fighting that's smooth as silk. We want to be visually seduced. We want doesn't always get. So instead we get medium fast and medium smooth. Things look up slightly when the special moves show up. But there's a fair amount of mediocrity to wade through till that happens.



■ Welcome to special move central



■ A negotiated settlement just wasn't an option



■ Panto swordplay



■ He's behind you

Despite being instantly accessible it won't keep you coming back for more. It lacks the power and style of games like Tekken 3. A bit disappointing then. **Rich**

PlayStation plus

RATED 61%

360

Racing shoot 'em up that begs the question: 'Is it meant to be this bad?'

Racing ultra-fast hoverbikes while blasting salvos of rockets in front and behind. Sounds like a winning combination. So what happened? Try this for size... Duff graphics, lousy gameplay and a slack weapons system. Oops.

Piggy in the middle

Thing is, you just don't get any sense that your dinky little hoverbike (and when we say 'little', we mean 'several shades smaller than Matchbox') is moving at all. It just sits in the centre of the screen. No matter where you hurtle on your guns-a-blazing quest for victory, you just sit there. Sometimes you waggle a bit. But moving? Hardly.



■ Your bike hardly moves, it's just the scenery that moves around it. And that's bad



■ It doesn't feel like you're actually controlling the bike. You just watch scenery go by

Picture postcard

Water has swamped the globe so each track is set over some sweet-looking river locations. But it's just a pity it doesn't look like your bike is actually skimming over them. The sad thing is the game's pretty fast, it's just the dodgy visual style that lets it down. And that's not good enough when WipEout 3's on the horizon.



■ Even the weapons you use look piddly



■ There's no real impression of speed



■ If only it looked this good

So what's up?

What you do is blast round various tasteful water-based tracks on hover bikes, blowing other people to shreds with weapons ranging from armour-piercing cannons to high-velocity rockets. There are 16 levels and a huge range of craft to choose from. It's a shame you won't care about using 'em all.



■ Weave in and out shooting other people. Not that exciting



■ You never entirely feel you're in control of your ship



■ Combat feels strangely dull

Look! New stuff

What's 'revolutionary' here is the targeting system. At any time, you can flick into a first-person mode and move a target around the screen to paste your rivals with your guns. 'But hang on', you cry, 'didn't you say you're driving an incredibly fast hoverbike? Won't that mean you let go of the steering?' Sharp lads. It's 100% useless. Oh dear.



■ Press L2 and the targeting system comes on



■ Then you remember you're going at 200mph!

On the pack we got sent it said 'Welcome to hell'. And we have to agree. It's a nice idea, but it's sorely lacking solid gameplay and any real sense of control. **Rob**

PlayStation
RATED 50%

THE MOST EXCITING GAMES MAG ON EARTH



NEW LOOK

BIGGER

Issue 212 of Computer and Video Games has more pages, more colour, more excitement and more adrenaline-inducing fun

BETTER

Our reviews are the best in the business with straight talking, honest opinions. If a game's good we'll say so, if it isn't we'll tell you that too

VALUE

If that's not enough Computer and Video Games is the best value you'll find, at only £1.50. What more could you want from a games magazine every month?

ON SALE 16TH JUNE

■ OUT JULY ■ BY INFOGRAMES ■ COSTS £39.99 ■ PLAYERS 1
■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, MOUSE

PLAYER MANAGER 98-99

Got a good eye for stats and Shearers? Then you might get a kick outta this.

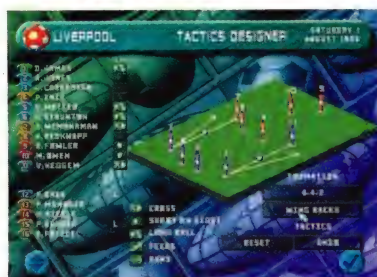
Player Manager 98-99 was originally reviewed in our April issue, but now it's back. Yup, it's still not out, but since then they've ironed out some of the rough edges and got George Graham in to give advice to struggling managers.

Stats attack

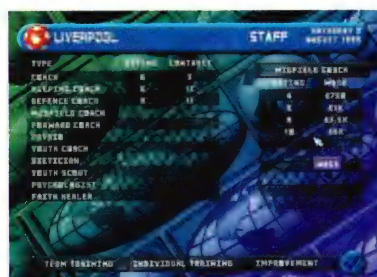
The basis of this game is statistics. Loads of 'em. Stats about everything from team morale to completed passes. So, to survive this avalanche of info, the menu system has to be clear and easy to use. Player Manager's control system is functional but boring to look at. Also, compared to Premier Manager it's not as 'pick up and play,' 'cos it takes longer to access the menu you want.



■ Improving your players is the key to success



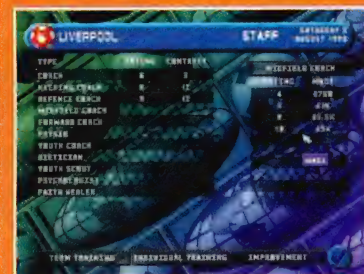
■ It's important to work out your tactics before a game, or you'll be made to pay - the hard way



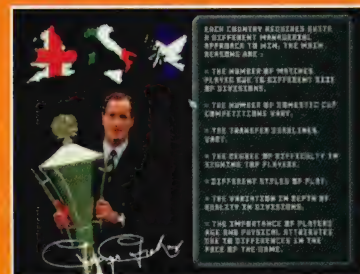
■ The menus look dull compared to other management games and aren't that easy to use

Loading worries

You've chosen your team from any of the UK, Scottish and Italian leagues. Now it's time to put your team to the test. There are three ways to view a game. The commentary and scanner modes are best because they're fast, or you can choose to watch the entire match. This way you get OK-ish graphics but at the expense of speed - Player Manager is slow, and you can't skip the action. Loading times are too long, so you spend more time waiting for kick off than managing players.



■ The actual matches look really ropey so it's best to watch the game using this screen



■ George is there to help you out, and to get your chosen outfit raring to go

There's loads of information in the game, but at the expense of looks and ease of play. Premier Manager 99's an altogether better game - go for that instead. **Rich**

PlayStation
RATED 71%

■ OUT JULY ■ BY SONY ■ COSTS £39.99 ■ PLAYERS 1 ■ COMPATIBILITIES DUAL SHOCK PAD, MEMORY CARD

APE ESCAPE

Platform shenanigans that'll make your Dual Shock sit up and go 'Bzzzzz!'

Here's a nutso platform actioner with more abstract uses for the Dual Shock than you can imagine. Catch monkeys with one stick, use the other to paddle a boat. Hit trees with one stick, climb walls with the other. Intrigued? Clock this.

What the hell do I do?

The idea is simple. You chase monkeys and catch 'em with various gizmos like nets and lightsabre-type swords. But even weirder is the control system - you can only use the Dual Shock to play. One stick is for moving, the other's for swinging nets and taking pot-shots at the monkeys. But first you've got to find 'em, and even though there are loads of the bleeders, it's not always that easy to net them.



■ Sneak up on this monkey by crouching



■ Then let rip with the Time Net. Bingo!

Goshwow!

Platform games can be kind of short on the old eye candy. But this isn't. For starters, the graphics are sharp as you like. Plus it moves very smoothly. But where it really scores is the variety of the levels: all of them are really solid, 3D and big, and there are three hidden subgames including boxing and snowboarding, accessed by collecting coins.



■ Big lizard bloke. Really quite impressive



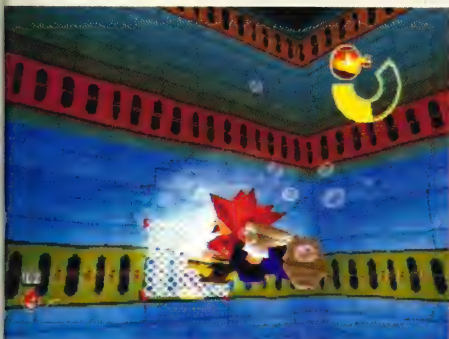
■ It's pretty cute but the levels look solid enough and there's loads of detail. Very cool



■ And check those lighting effects. Yowzers! Ape Escape's crammed with smart graphics

Stuff... and more stuff!

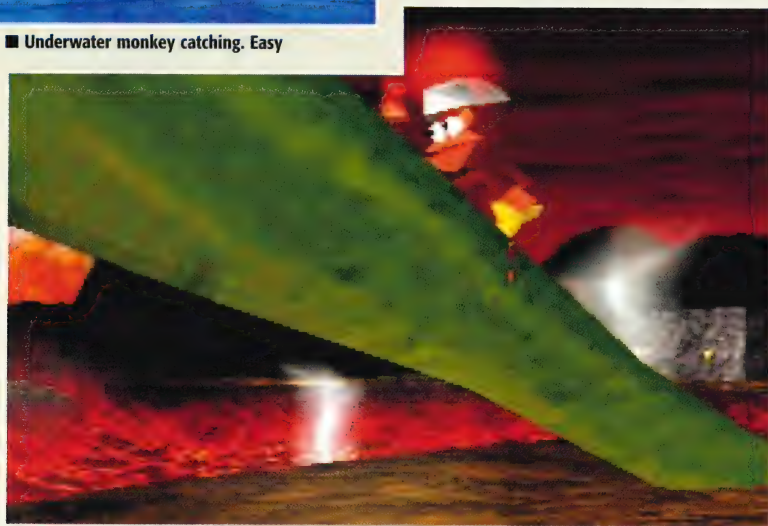
The basic gist of the game is cool enough, but there are always new bits added to it as you plough through. OK, on every level you are just catching monkeys, but there's always variations. Check out some of the ways your monkey-chasing is made more difficult.



■ Underwater monkey catching. Easy



■ Rowing this dinghy is well difficult at first



■ The monkey's red light means he's alerted to your presence, making him more difficult to catch



■ Use the sword to whack the little guys



■ Some of the chimps are well hidden

Monkey magic

This looks like a game for 12 year-olds. So that's us sorted then. It's the little touches that give it away. The fact all the monkeys have names and personalities which show up when you scope them with your monkey radar. But it doesn't bother us. Thing is, the gameplay's a lot more rich and satisfying than in a lot of so-called 'adult' games. Nice.



■ Each monkey is different, and they're intelligent too



■ Don't be fooled by their cute looks, bag 'em!



■ Use the monkey radar to find hidden chimps

Problems? No problem

Most platform games tend to revolve around really dull stuff like collecting 4,000 tokens to get extra lives. Which is why this is a breath of fresh air. Just about every new monkey represents a new skill you'll have to learn. Sneaking, shooting, running while swiping. Variety is the name of the game here, and we like that.



■ Although you don't have to collect all 60 tokens, you'll get subgames for grabbing some of them



■ You must collect a certain number of monkeys to open up a new level



■ You have to do the levels in any order but the monkeys can be caught any way you please

Dual Shock-only shocker!

At first we weren't convinced about Ape Escape's Dual Shock-only controls. But go a couple of rounds with the early levels and you're thinking 'This ain't so bad'. A bit further in, and you're coming up against bits where you really have to work that pad to get through. Clever.



■ Wander around with monkey radar on, finding other monkeys by swivelling the right stick



■ The left stick's for moving



■ The right is for attacking

winner

Loads of variety, eye-popping looks and slick-as-you-like gameplay. Awesome. But it is a game for kids. Time to take a walk on the childside? Yeah. Rob

PlayStation plus

RATED 91%

AIRONAUTS

Airborne prisoners dogfighting to freedom is a fresh idea. But it's firing blanks

Prisoners should be made to pay. So how about getting them to perform in a hi-tech version of *Gladiators* for national TV? Strap them to flimsy flying machines and hurl them into the skies to battle mines and other nasties. This is *Aironauts*.

Freedom fighters

All prisoners whose sentences exceed their life expectancy by three years are eligible to become Aironauts. The reward? A full pardon, tons of wonga and a new identity. Sounds like a deal. Nevertheless, when you see what you've got to do you might change your mind. Easy it isn't. Tunnelling out with a plastic spoon might seem like a better option.



■ The idea is people at home watch the games



■ And these are the competitors

Looking like

Our main gripe with *Aironauts* is how it looks. Because the enclosed arenas are complex *Blade Runner*-style structures featuring wind turbines, skyscrapers and aerial fortresses, your targets can disappear into the murky background. This is a headache since just as you get a target in your sights it can be lost quicker than a tenner at a pickpockets' convention.



■ Finding your target is tricky, so it's best to follow the handy arrow



■ The radar soon becomes your best friend, it knows where the action is

The top 40

Getting your pardon involves pitting your wits against 10 different levels. Each level has four games, making 40 games you must survive to earn your freedom. Some are devilishly difficult to master. And don't think you can skip past the tricky ones – that isn't an option. Frustrating? Oh yes.



■ These arenas are the prisons of the future



■ As you progress things get pretty hectic

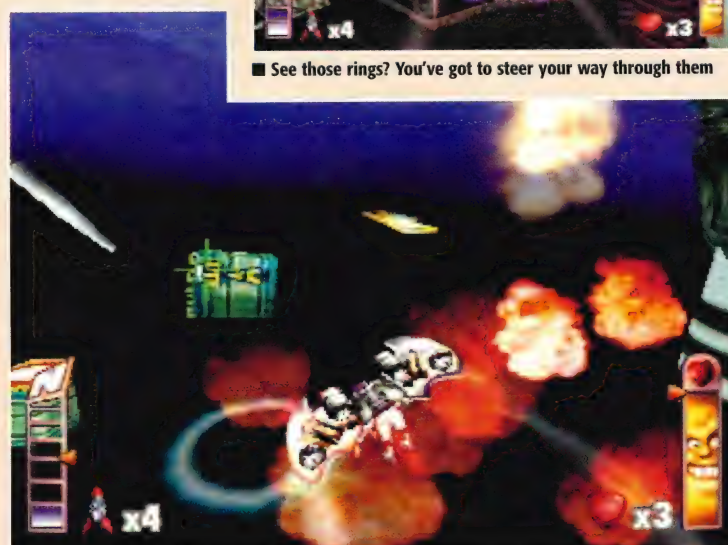
Let the games begin

There are nice and easy games early on, like guiding your 'rig' through rings suspended in the sky. It then moves on to more sweaty-palmed tasks like destroying floating mines.

The best is left for the end of each level – you, head-to-head with a past champion. Man against man, to the death.



■ See those rings? You've got to steer your way through them



■ Hit one of the barrels to set off a chain reaction. That's another task complete



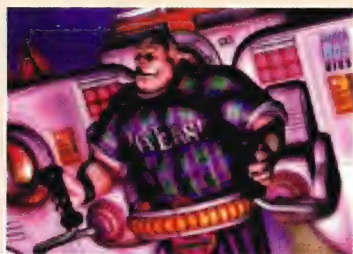
■ Don't hit mines or you'll get damaged



■ Get set to meet the big bad boss man

Character building

The jailbirds at your disposal range from Bo Winnabago, the mentally-challenged farmboy, to Lady Alex, the New York socialite with a taste for other people's jewellery. They differ in their respective speed, agility and armour. Finding the best is a case of trial and error. So start with someone that does everything reasonably well, like cyber-thief Grace Miles.



■ It's no wonder these people are in prison, just take a look at them



■ This ones not too agile, but boy can it pack a punch. Steer well clear is our advice



■ You've got to judge your turns or you'll hit the buildings

Aironauts gives you wings

Depending on how well you do, you'll be awarded wings. They can be used to upgrade your rig and buy extra lives, resulting in a beast of a machine and more gameplay. So pay attention to marksmanship, piloting and navigation to guarantee your release from jail.



■ If you see any of these wings go get them cos in time you'll be able to upgrade to the GTi model

A novel idea that doesn't take itself seriously. Sadly it's also confusing, and frustrating. It reaches for the sky but doesn't know the route to Costa del Fun. Rich

PlayStation plus

RATED 73%

SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO LOOK AT THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE



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■ OUT JULY ■ BY SONY ■ COSTS £39.99 ■ PLAYERS 1 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, DUAL SHOCK PAD,

MEMORY CARD

OMEGA BOOST

Boss monster after boss monster. All in one-size-fits-all XXL as standard. Tasty...

Blast off into space to nuke an endless sequence of huge robots. Like, REALLY huge. Yup, it's the shoot 'em up where the baddies clock in around the size of your average end of game überboss. And they just go on getting bigger...

Kill! Where is the enemy?

This game boils down to a series of set pieces in featureless bits of space. It's you, plucky hero in a 'battle suit' (that's 'giant robot outfit' to you and me) slugging it out with a sequence of huge bad guys.

No sooner have you worn down one bad boy's enormous energy bar with half an hour's constant blasting than his mate'll show up. With even bigger guns.



■ Little people: you'll see one or two of these



■ But then it's back to blasting boys like this



■ Most of the bosses pack quite a punch

■ Your rockets are no' bad

Simple

Even total dingbats will rock through this with ease. You need no sense of direction, 'cos there's no scenery. No power-ups to find. No attack system to understand. The game gets samey after a while, but it's plugged straight into the adrenaline mains. Dumb, but fun.



■ Just you and the boss out there in space



■ Simple? You bet your bottom dollar



■ Geri's 'space-age' look did nothing to improve record sales

Looky kooky

These screenshots are pretty sexy. But seeing this in a still can't get across how impressive this looks on the move. The lights! The trails! The explosions! Sadly, there's a problem. The way you have to keep diving out of the way of laser fire means you miss quite a bit of the eye candy. Stop to look, and you die. Oops.



■ Well tasty explosions



■ Most of the bosses are pretty damn impressive. Just like bosses in real life



■ And superb alien weapon things. If only they didn't hurt so bad

Thundering guns!

Fighting's pretty simple. Some might say too simple. What you've got to do is wait till your targetting system locks on to the hurty bits of whatever you're looking at, tap the button and let rip with some tasteful green homing missiles. The tricky bit's staying face on long enough to lock, then timing your thrust away at the last moment...



■ Stay on target... stay on target



■ Vulnerable bits get highlighted with little blue squares. So you know to blast 'em good



■ Then you let off a salvo: if you time it right, you'll get about eight missiles



■ Don't worry about missiles. They'll hit home



■ Use your thrust to blast off into the sunset

Little people

If the game sounds a touch simple, that's because it is. It's just you and the bad guys zooming around each other, killing away. Big bad guys. The odd little bad guy. No exploring. No thinking. This effort is very slick. It's very white knuckle. But if you're not of the 'put 50p in the slot and let rip' school of gaming, be wary...



■ Use your little direction finder to show you where the baddies are



■ Once you know where they are, then go to 'em. It's a simple formula

Two flavours... don't take less!

The bosses divide up roughly into two camps, tactics-wise. And since you'll be seeing a whole lot of boss on here, we thought we'd show you one of each...

No. 1: Giant robot

You'll see quite a few of these lads. They're dead zippy, and usually come tooled with nasty homing weapons. Thing is, they'll also try and ram you head-on if you go straight at them. Tricky. The way to dead 'em is to go head-on, launch a salvo of missiles but then use your thrust to dive out of their way at the last moment. Class.



■ They keep pumping heat-seekers at you...



■ So much dodging is in order

No. 2: Other giant space things

Giant space eyes. Giant space stations. Giant space rocks. All with different weapons. Variety's the name of the game here. But the way to deal with 'em's fairly standard. Orbit them in spinning dives, taking potshots at their sides in turn and moving off before any of their weapon systems can get a lock. That means moving VERY fast.



■ This side drops bombs at you



■ Keep moving, this side of it fires lasers

The world

It's just you and bad people out there. There is nothing to explore. Your little direction finder will start doing the 'Bogey at three o'clock' bit, and you just head where it tells you. Space only exists to tell you the distance to your next kill. This makes everything a tad sparse, but hell. It was the killing we were interested in anyhow...



■ The sky. This is where most of the baddies live



■ The ground. Some baddies burrow in it. Kill them too

Looks jaw-dropping, plays fast and fun. If mindless killing in space turns your crank, and it should, you'll love this. A tad dumb and samey, but pure class. Rob

PlayStation plus

RATED 90%

Platinum Rated

■ OUT NOW ■ BY PSYGNOSIS ■ COSTS £19.99 ■ PLAYERS 1-2 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, DUAL SHOCK PAD

FORMULA 1 97

If you only drive one Formula 1 racer this season, make sure it's this scorching

Multi-million dollar cars. Eye-watering speeds. Outrageous overtaking manoeuvres. Spectacular multi-car pile-ups. You find it all in Formula 1 97 — the best racing sim to grace the 'Station and a steal at only 20 notes.

Gameplay

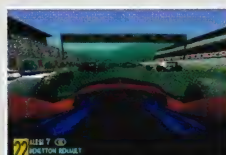
There are two ways of playing Formula 1 97: arcade mode is a straightforward blast around any of the tracks without any of the complicated technical stuff. Perfect for novices or if you've only got ten minutes to spare. The grand prix mode is the in-depth simulation game, with brake ratios to consider, telemetry graphs to examine, aerodynamics to adjust and suspension dampers to tweak. Strictly for die-hard Formula 1 nuts only.



■ Beginners should start with the arcade game



■ Cars don't get damaged when you're playing in arcade mode



■ The GP game is tons harder



■ The pit crew'll sort that out

Graphics

Formula 1 97 may be almost two years old but it's still one of the best-looking racers on the 'Station to date. The cars are well smart, decked out with all the proper sponsors, and this level of detail even extends to the tyres — chalk marks are visible when they're new, but slowly disappear as the race goes on! Trust us — it'll blow you away.



■ The presentation is just like on the telly



■ The detail in the game is incredible — drivers even tilt their heads in the high-speed corners

Play your mates

There are few things in life more satisfying than giving your mates a good thrashing on your 'Station. Sadly, the two-player game in Formula 1 97 isn't much cop. You can only race head-to-head without any computer cars which leads to some pretty dull races, and the graphics are pretty grim too. What a waste.



■ Hey, where did all the other cars go?



■ The graphics are pants in two-player mode

Circuits

All 18 circuits from the gruelling 97 Formula 1 season are present and correct. Each has been modelled exactly on the real thing so you can experience first-hand Monte Carlo's infamous hairpins and the ultra-fast straights at Hockenheim.



■ The Monaco street circuit is well tricky



■ Silverstone is fairly simple to get to grips with



■ New circuits like Melbourne are in here

Platinum The best Formula 1 racer on the 'Station by miles. It's blinding to look at, it plays like a dream and it'll only set you back £20. Top stuff. Lee

PlayStation
RATED 90%

FIFA 98: ROAD TO WORLD CUP

Footy game goes platinum. We're not impressed...

It's not the official World Cup footy game. That came later. This is the game of the World Cup qualifying rounds. That means, besides the likes of England and Brazil, you get the more obscure teams like Tonga. And it'll only cost you 20 quid.

Gameplay

FIFA: Road to World Cup plays like a dog. The problem is that the controls are sluggish and unresponsive, which makes dribbling and passing of the ball a nightmare. Add to this the irritatingly slow speed at which the game is played and you'll be tearing your hair out.



■ So you can't tell how slow the game is. Neither, is it clear how lame the controls are



■ Sadly, these screenshots are static



■ So you'll just have to take it from us

Option-o-rama

One thing FIFA: RTWC isn't lacking in is variety. Choose from 172 domestic and international sides, play a friendly match, a league or tackle the gruelling 'road to world cup'.

Once you're in the game, you can fiddle with the camera angle, change the team formation, glance at the booking percentages and make substitutions. Which is all well and good, but not so cool if you just want a quick five-minute blast.



■ Wannabe managers can fiddle with tactics



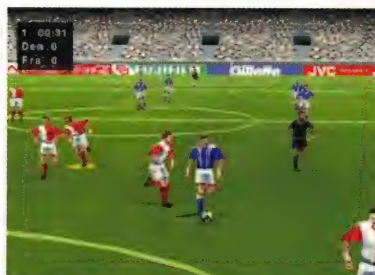
■ And then make them count when it comes to the big game proper

Graphics

Yeah, it looks OK in the pictures, but it's a different story when you see it in action. The player movement is unrealistic and generally off-putting, the action tends to be slow and jerky, and ball moves very sluggishly. On the plus side, the players do look like they do in real life, which will please anal footy fans. Still, more minuses than pluses at work here.



■ Not exactly 'Station-stretching looks



■ Shame, but this just doesn't move smooth



■ Players look realistic, at least

Practice makes perfect

One bit of FIFA: RTWC we do like is the training mode. Here you can practise penalties, free kicks, corners and work out various set pieces. You can even have a training match against up to ten opponents, giving you the chance to put your newly-learned skills into practice. Or at least that's the theory.



■ Need more time on penalty kicks?



■ Or perhaps it's corner kicks you need work on

Platinum Not that great first time around and even less appealing now. Sure, only £20, but for that you could have the superior ISS Pro. Best avoided. Lee

PlayStation
RATED 60%

■ OUT NOW ■ BY ELECTRONIC ARTS ■ COSTS £19.99 ■ PLAYERS 1-2 ■ COMPATIBILITIES JOYPAD, MEMORY CARD, LINK CABLE

COMMAND & CONQUER: RED ALERT

Command & Conquer — you do exactly what it says on the box

Napalm battalions of moustachioed Commie ground troops. Blanket bomb enormous Russian bases. And now you've only gotta pay 20 notes for the privilege. C&C: Red Alert's just gone platinum. Best put your social life on hold for a month...

How it works

The idea is simple. Starting off with only a handful of troops and a couple of buildings, you've gotta build yourself a military force capable of annihilating the enemy. This involves building yourself a base of operations, training up ground troops, building tanks and harvesting the surrounding area for valuable minerals. Then kicking ass.



■ March over to the enemy and kick some ass



■ Get your base sorted and build a load of troops



Twice as nice at half the price

What you get are two discs worth of Red Alert: one for the Allied army and another for Stalin's mob. This means that you can play as either of the two opposing forces, shooting, blowing up and incinerating hordes of soldiers in the name of the political system of your choice. Not the Russians then.



■ That's what we like to see, plenty of BIG explosions



■ Play as the Russian army if you want the best weapons



■ Two discs for £20... bargain!



■ Moustachioed generals discuss war strategies. Hint: you're gonna need to pay attention to this

Murder! Death! Kill!

The best bit of war strategy games is playing against a mate and slaughtering billions of his diddy soldiers. Good job C&C: Red Alert has a smart link-up option then. Playing as opposing armies in the major conflict, you've gotta use your grey matter to out smart your mate and cripple his army. It'll have you hooked.



■ Playing with a normal joypad is OK. Just OK. Plug in a 'Station mouse though, and it's about a million times better. Trust us



■ You've gotta rescue Einstein in one mission



■ You're gonna need a ton of tanks to cane the Ruskies

Get ahead of the game

Red Alert is hard. Hard like a porn star's member. So you're gonna need some hints and tips if you want to get ahead. Put the pointer on the team icons on the sidebar and highlight buttons then cancel them with **○** in the sequences shown below.

WIN THE BATTLE:
INSTANT CASH:
MAP REVEAL:
A-BOMB LAUNCH:



■ C&C's well hard, so give these cheats a try

winner Red Alert's hardly brimming over with graphical flash, but it's busting at the seams with top-notch gameplay. It's a steal at £20. Lee

PlayStation
RATED 93%

Classifieds: The best in PlayStation games and gear



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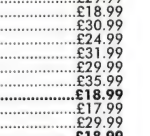
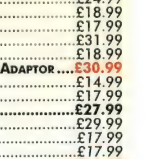
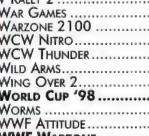
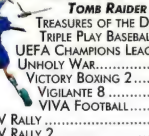
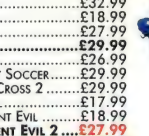
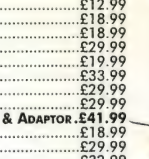
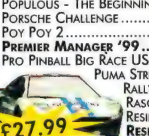
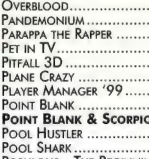
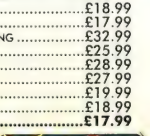
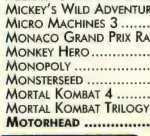
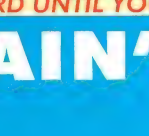
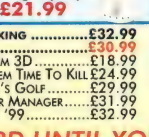
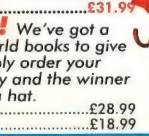
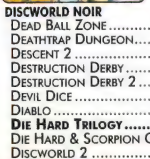
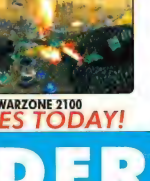
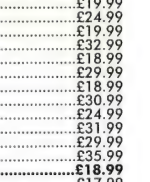
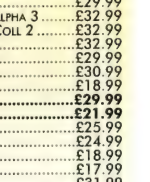
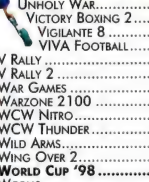
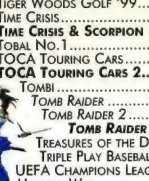
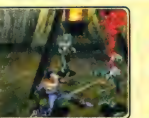
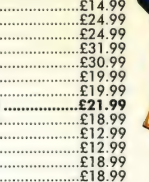
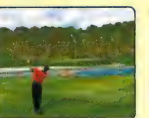
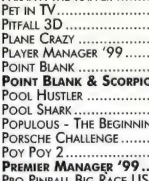
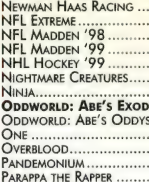
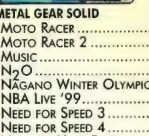
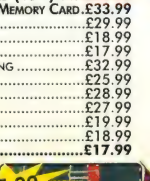
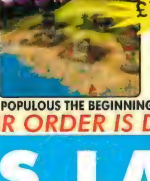
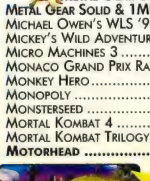
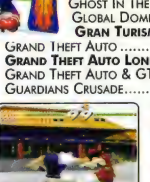
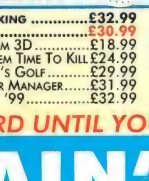
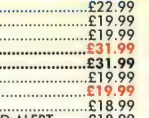
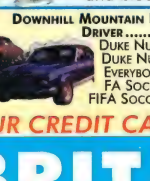
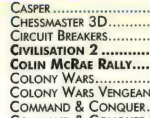
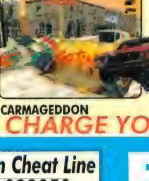
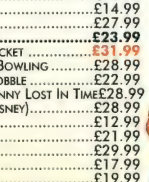
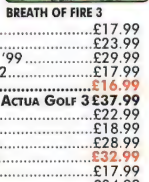
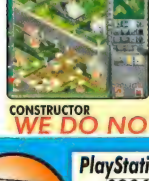
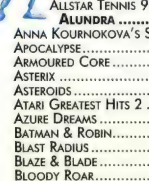
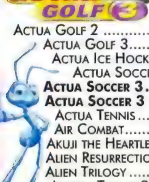
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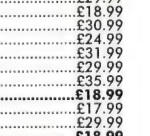
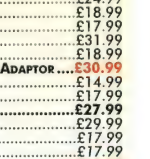
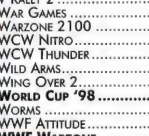
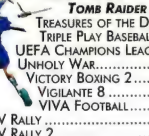
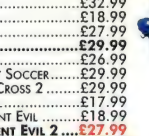
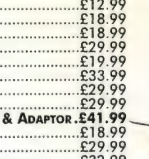
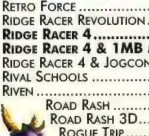
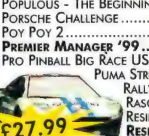
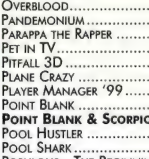
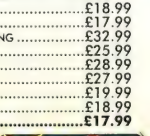
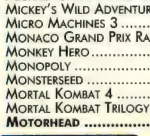
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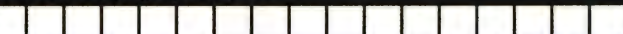
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HOW WE RATE STUFF

91-100%.... Essential play

81-90%.... Almost classic

71-80%.... Good, not great

61-70%..... Only okay

51-60%..... Just toss

0-50%..... Total toss

winner

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All Games Rated between 71%-100%

best games

■ **What it's called**
The games are listed alphabetically

■ **How we scored it**
See ratings key above

■ **How many players**
Is it a one-player or great with mates?

■ **How much it costs**
The recommended retail price, although you could find it cheaper

■ **Extra Information**
We'll tell you exactly what we think of each game, plus we'll point out any gadgets it uses such as the link-up or multitap. Virtually all the games work with the Dual Shock and memory card, but we'll let you know if it uses 'em well.

plus



Goyush Gear tested p84

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p88 Best Retro games

Hey you oldy boldies! Here are the games you'll love

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The questions you're always asking answered at last

p93 Platinum

We run down the latest cheapo games

p94 Gear

All the new gizmos and gadgets tried and tested

p95 Give em a try

The weird games that are worth a look

p96 The age test

It's old, but are we still playing it?

p113 What's it do?

This month: The RF Cable. What does it do?



Seeing a lot of him lately p89

Weird games we love p95



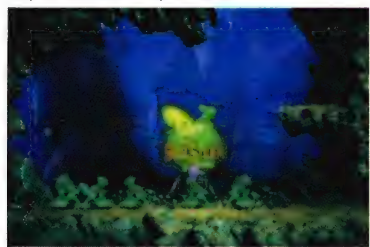
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All Games Rated between 71%-100%

The best games



Abe's Exoddus **91%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Dead playable sequel to the now-cheapo Abe's Oddysee. More of the same platform action. **winner**



A Bug's Life **70%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Looks nice enough, plays OK. But this explore 'em up based on the Disney film is hardly a showstopper.

Actua Golf **71%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 This oldest still plays OK but looks tossy compared to newer clubbers. For more options try...

Actua Golf 2 **75%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 It's got some new courses and a fresh lick of paint, but it still plays the same. Not bad, just not great.

Actua Golf 3 **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 The best golf game around, we reckon, mainly because it's well realistic when you play with the Dual Shock pad.

Actua Ice Hockey **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Nifty pick-up-'n'-play hockey sim which boats all the usual teams and moves. Uses multitap.

Actua Soccer 2 **73%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Better looking than the Platinum original but still not easy to play. Uses multitap and analogue pad. **Rent it**

Actua Soccer 3 **79%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Better, but still not as flowing or fun as ISS Pro 98. Compatible with multitap.

Actua Tennis **74%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Average to look at but not bad to knock around. Better with the Dual Shock but still no ace.

Agile Warrior **83%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Aircraft shooty game that's easy to play but gets boring too soon. Still, not that bad.

Air Combat 2 **85%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 Good-looking flight sim with loadsa missions and a stack of planes to choose from. Use Dual Shock for best results.

Akuji the Heartless **82%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Run around Tomb Raider-style, bagging things with Black Magic. Not enough gore to be great. Uses Dual Shock.

All Star Tennis **73%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Slightly soiled looks don't spoil this quite tasty racket-a-thon. Use Dual Shock pad. **Rent it**

Alone in the Dark **71%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Resident Evil-style horror adventure with trashy graphics and naff all gore. Gameplay's all right, though.

Alundra **75%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Long-winded adventure which looks rubbish but is pretty satisfying if you stick it out. Good for beginners.

Anna K's Smash Court Tennis **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Excellent tennis game with a picture of the lovely Anna on the cover. Uses a multitap for plenty o' players action.

Apocalypse **88%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Bruce Willis pumps it up in this balls-out sci-fi blaster. It's a bit samey but still brilliant. Dual Shock.

Armoured Core **74%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Robot blasting game which is a bit short in one-player but a good laugh against a mate.

Assault **84%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Full-on shoot 'em up where the killing just doesn't stop. Big weapons and even bigger bad guys, we like this.

AVI Evolution Global **73%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Looks like a yawnsome strategy thang but get into this baby and you'll have fun building empires. Mouse compatible.



Baby Universe **75%**
Price £29.99 **Players** 1
 This psychedelic lightshow more a mind-bending experience than a game. Great for late night chill seshes.

Ballblazer Champions **75%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Future sport sim where two hover cars must shoot the plasma ball at the opponent's holo-goal. Weird.

Batman & Robin **73%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 A bit like Tomb Raider in Gotham City, this is an ambitious but sadly flawed take on the Batman theme.

Bedlam **78%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Tactical robot blaster where you've really gotta use the mouse to get the most out of it.

Big Air **81%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Snowboarding game with lots detail but let down by lengthy loading times and a lack of adrenalin. **Rent it**

Biofreaks **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 So it's no Tekken 3, but this thumper's got some wicked moves and some of the coolest effects we've seen, including flying fighters!

Black Dawn **81%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 This sequel to Agile Warrior offers more of the same aircraft shooty stuff. Boasts nicer graphics though.

Blast Radius **83%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Space-based shoot 'em up that's the best with Dual Shock. Ultimately lacks variety.

Blam! Machinehead **84%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Hard to get into but work out this tough 3D blaster and you'll be zapping bad guys for hours.

Blazing Dragons **72%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Graphic adventure with mucho laughs and comedy voiceovers. Too much like hard work though, we reckon.

Bloody Roar **90%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Looks lush, plays fast and kicks like a mule. Not the best fighter but not far off. Go on, tuck in...

Bloody Roar 2 **91%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 We still love the idea of animals scrapping. And this sequel is even better than the first. Bonus! **winner**

B-Movie **79%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Tongue-in-cheek blast 'em up where UFOs invade Earth to go cow rustling. Way, way out there... **Rent it**

Bomberman World **83%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
 Stick in a multitap and this is bombastic blasting for four players. Not so hot as a one-player though.

Breath of Fire III **84%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Cutesy role-playing epic which'll keep you hooked for ages. Bit slow for some, though.

Brian Lara Cricket **88%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Despite its fiddly control system, this cricket sim'll knock you for six. Great with Dual Shock pad.

Broken Sword **91%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Superb puzzle-solving adventure. (N.B It also comes bundled with two other games on the Help! pack). **winner**

Broken Sword 2 **91%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 More of the same, but still smart. Guaranteed to frustrate the hell out of you. **winner**



Bubble Bobble Pack **84%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Looks pretty naff but this is well-endowed with gameplay. Serious platform fun for one or two players.

Buggy **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Race radio-controlled cars in this fun-for-a-while racer. Handles slightly better with the Dual Shock.

Bushido Blade **83%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Samurai swordfighting game that's too realistic for its own good. Worth a try though. **Rent it**

Bust-a-Groove **88%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Dance battle game where the winner's the guy who can pull off the smartest breakdance moves. Weird but well good.

Bust-a-Move 3 **85%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Bubble-bursting puzzle game that's dead easy to play but difficult to put down.

Bust-a-Move 4 **80%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Way too similar to the others to make it worth splashing the cash for. Try its Platinum predecessor instead.



Cardinal Syn **71%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Average beat 'em up with swords, slick moves and some monster characters. Works with Dual Shock pad.

Castlevania **89%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Visually it's no supermodel, but it's a well-stacked platform adventure with a classy musical score.

Circuit Breakers **80%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Race anything from tiny cars to minute submarines around a load of different courses. Good with multitap and four players.

Civilisation 2 **88%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Get to play God in a historical setting. A bit like Sim City if you know what we mean. Strange, but really good.

Colin McRae Rally **93%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Way cool off-road rally sim which looks blinding and plays like a babe. Get it, that's an order... **winner**

Colony Wars **90%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Space-based shooter with sweet graphics and pulse-pumping gameplay. A bit samey for some.

Colony Wars Vengeance **93%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Better sequel with planet-based battles as well as space dogfights. Use Dual Shock for best results. **winner**

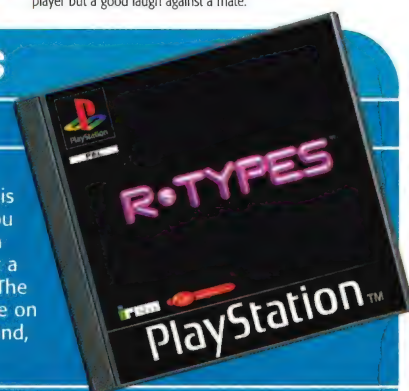
Command & Conquer: Red Alert **91%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Control your tiny army and conquer worlds in this neat strategy thang. Uses mouse and link-up. **winner**

Command & Conquer: Retaliation **91%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Exactly the same to play, but with new missions, vehicles and cranked-up difficulty levels. Two-player. **winner**

Best Retro games

R-Types

For retro games, read, 'games so old your dad played them'. But trust us, this is one the old man would've loved. You pilot a tiny spaceship pitted against an insane amount of on-screen nasties at a pace that would frighten Keith out of The Prodigy. You get two versions of R-Type on the disc which means bags of value and, even better, bags of gameplay.



Like that? Then check these out

Asteroids

Price £29.95 **Players** 1-2
 Blast menacing rocks. Sounds lame, but it's fast, frantic arcade fun. One for your itchy trigger finger.

Retro Force

Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Not actually old. Instead, this is one designed to look old. Ye olde retro farts are gonna love it...



Constructor 82%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Play God in this building site sim that's a lot more fun than it sounds. Easier to play with mouse.

Contra: Legacy of War 83%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Solid blasting action for one or two kitted-out soldiers ready to save the world. 3D mode is great with glasses supplied.

Cool Boarders 85%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
The original snowboarding thrash is still fun to play, but lack of other racers makes it a bit dull.

Cool Boarders 2 91%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Sheet hot snowboarding game made a whole lot better than the first thanks to the two-player game. **winner**

Cool Boarders 3 82%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
OK follow-up which doesn't improve on the one before, so what's the point? Uses Dual Shock.

Crash Bandicoot 3 89%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A great laff for all, with loads of different gameplay styles and some lovely graphics. Much too short though. Dual Shock compatible.

Crime Killer 79%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Futuristic cops 'n' robbers mix of racing and shooting. Good fun for a bit, but then gets boring. Works with Dual Shock.

Croc 2 88%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Cutey-pie platforming action with a cuddly crocodile. Not as puke-making as it sounds but still let down by poor controls.

Crusader: No Remorse 78%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Shoot loads, explore like crazy and bag a load of bad guys. OKish lone soldier 'em up.

D

Dark Forces 80%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Star Wars first-person blast which looks old skool but plays OK. The best bit? Zapping stormtroopers.

Darklight Conflict 87%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
3D space game delivers stunning gameplay and slick visuals. Difficult to master so watch out.

Darkstalkers 3 71%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
The kind of Japanese beat 'em up only a mother could really love. And with so many other doozies available, are you gonna bother?

Dead Ball Zone 78%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Hyper-violent future sports game with loadsa blood-spilling and chainsaws. Fast and frantic.

Dead or Alive 91%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Excellent fist-throwing monster boasts super-crisp graphics and well-stacked female fighters. Result! **winner**



Deathtrap Dungeon 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Tomb Raider-style adventure with scantily clad heroine, loads of big monsters and muchos sword swinging.

Descent 83%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Doom in spaceships. Fly around underground tunnels, shooting stuff. Not bad, but better in link-up two-player mode.

Descent II 78%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Few improvements so why bother? If anything this is slower than the first one. D'oh!

Devil Dice 85%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Simple but addictive puzzler that'll keep you coming back for more. And more...

Diablo 77%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Pretty good adventuring epic that's not too spoddy. You've gotta stick it out to get the best from this one.

What's been burning up our 'Stations

Still can't decide what to buy? Then let us give you some pointers

Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver

Take a dash of Tomb Raider's adventure appeal, add a pinch of Resident Evil's horror atmospherics and you come close to the overall feel of Soul Reaver. Who among us hasn't dreamed of impaling our enemies on huge spikes?



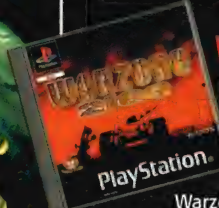
Driver

Driver's mean at heart, and we like our games with a bit of a ruthless edge to them. But being anti-social doesn't necessarily make a game good, so it's lucky this is a bonzer joypad turn too. Lots of reckless driving, smart graphics and speed galore. We like it, and so will you.



Warzone 2100

When mindlessly jabbing at the joypad gets too boring, reach for your thinking cap. And this is where Warzone 2100 comes in. This is strategy central, with tons of missions to get your teeth into and an interesting storyline to boot.



Disruptor 76%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Slick-looking but ultimately yawnsome first-person fire fest. Brimming with tasty weapons though.

Diver's Dream 75%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Go on a search for buried treasure beneath the sea. Fun but flawed. Approach with care, we say...

Driver 94%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Awesome mafia driving game. Imagine a cross between Grand Theft Auto and Gran Turismo. **winner**

Duke Nukem 91%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Stonking corridor shoot 'em up. Colourful, funny and very violent. Two-player link game is great laffs. **winner**

Duke Nukem: Time to Kill 88%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Da Duke gets a Tomb Raider-style makeover. The result? A dead good fragfest. Two-player's not much cop.

E

Earthworm Jim 2 73%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Old Skool platformer doesn't take itself too seriously. Great to play, if only for a couple of hours.

ESPN Extreme Games 74%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Oddball sports racing game with a handful of events and a twist of violence for good measure.

Everybody's Golf 83%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
A golf game that's - wait for it - fun! Big-headed clubbers take to the fairway and for once it's no snooze-a-thon.

Exhumed 86%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
One of the most challenging Doom-style blasters around. Doesn't look great but hey, gameplay's a treat.

F

Felony II-79 81%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Choose your motor and burn up three well cool tracks. Trash things to get extra cars. Refreshing tyre-shredding stuff.

FIFA 99 78%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Fairly standard footy game crammed with league teams and all the players. Look OK, doesn't play too hot.

The Fifth Element 78%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Likeable adventure based on the sci-fi smash. Lacks the pizzazz to make it a true classic.

Final Doom 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Ultra-hard follow-up with 30 new levels but the same old weapons. Still, a good link-up laugh.

Fluid 80%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Swim through underwater worlds to build up library of samples, then mix dance tunes. Odd.

Formula 1 97 88%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Great racing sim endowed all the proper drivers 'n' teams, plus nifty hi-res graphics. The two-player game is whiffy.

Formula Karts 75%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Kart racer that's fast, fun 'n' furious. The tracks are bit short, but otherwise an engine-revving laff.

Forsaken 87%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Zip through tight corridors, straddled on a jet bike. The aim: shoot everything in sight. Cool. Uses Dual Shock pad.

Frogger 3D 78%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Retro classic given a 3D facelift. Gameplay's simple but still fun, while the graphics look nice enough. Four players with multitap.

Future Cop: LAPD 88%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Hover, stomp and blast your way through futuristic cities, all in the pursuit of justice. Not 'arf bad.

G

G-Darius 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Stomping shoot 'em up pits you against a world of murderous fish. Well frantic.

G-Police 91%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Sci-fi helicopter thriller that grabs you by the balls. It's a bitch to control but the Dual Shock helps. **winner**

Gex: Enter the Gecko 88%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Yep, you control a bouncing lizard. Fine addition to an already fun-filled platform series.

Gex 3D 89%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Very cool 3D platformer pumped full of exploration and adrenalin. Sometimes tricky to control, but you'll get used to it pronto.

Ghost in the Shell 88%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Japanese-y robot shooter with great graphics, cool tunes and a whole lotta gameplay. You'll like.

Global Domination 73%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Very boring to look at - it's just this coloured globe - but strategy nuts'll get excited over it. The rest of you, be wary.

H.I.J.

Hard Edge 84%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
It's a Resident Evil-style adventure with a sci-fi edge and a dash of kung fu just for good measure. Not bad at all.

Heart of Darkness 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Good looking platformer plays like a peach. Puzzle-y bits to chew on too. Presented in widescreen though, which is odd.

Help! 85%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Broken Sword's great, but Road Rash and Myst ain't so hot. Still, pretty good value.

Herc's Adventures 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Solid gameplay and tons of challenge in fun-to-play cartoon frolics. Arcade adventure, Greek Gods style.

Hercules 80%

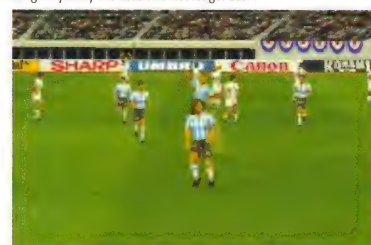
Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Based on the Disney flick, this coolio looking platform game is fun for a bit. Could've been longer, though.

Impact Racing 72%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Offbeat racing game mixing Destruction Derby with Mad Max. Not quite as good as it sounds, unfortunately...

ISS Pro 98 94%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
The best footy game bar none. It's easy to play but will grab you by the balls and not let go. Lush. **winner**



Jersey Devil 78%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Looks fantastic but the gameplay's not quite up to scratch. Dodgy camera angles make it hard to play.

Jonah Lomu Rugby 84%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Brilliant rugby sim, but the fiddly controls will drive you mad. Worth sticking with...

Jumping Flash 76%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Well old 3D platformer where you've gotta leap sky-high to win. Nice idea but looking a bit dated.

Knowledge: updated every month

Jumping Flash 2 77%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Same thing as before, but not enough levels to keep your appetite satisfied. No fair.



Kensei: Sacred Fist 75%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tries hard to be a great beat 'em up but doesn't quite succeed. We reckon you're better off with Tekken 3.

KKnD: Krossfire 77%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
It stands for Kill Krush and Destroy. Which sounds cool. But this is not as good as you'd think.

Klonoa 80%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Sickly sweet platform romp which stars a puppy as the main geeza. Nice looking and fun enough to play, but a bit easy.

Kula World 85%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Bounce a beach ball through weirdo levels to solve puzzles. Odd concept but strangely addictive.

Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver 92%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Excellent Tomb Raider-style adventure going on here, with lashings of blood and a good plot.



Lemmings 80%

Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
It's cheap, addictive as hell but looks bloody awful. Still, we reckon you'll play for ages. Uses Dual Shock.

Little Big Adventure 81%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Action adventure packed with puzzles and shooty bits. Another case of gameplay over graphics.

Lucky Luke 72%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
The mix of gameplay styles makes this an interesting if not exciting platformer. Looks a bit kiddish.



Machine Hunter 80%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Top-down blast where the action never stops. Good fun for both one and two players.

Madden 97 80%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
If American football floats your boat you could to a lot worse than tackle this baby.

Madden 98 83%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Better than the first but not by much. More gridiron action than you can shake a stick at.

Madden 99 73%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
For chrissakes, three games later and naff all has changed. Yeah it's still OK, but we demand more! Uses multitap.

Magic Carpet 79%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Fly around on your mystic rug, zapping weird creatures with magic. An oldie but still pretty darn good.

Marvel Super Heroes 78%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Flatish beat'em up with some H-U-G-E fighters. Animation's not so hot but it plays nice enough.

Marvel Super Heroes vs Street fighter 83%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
If you're really into Marvel Super Heroes and REALLY into Street Fighter, this cannae be faulted. The rest of you, approach with care.

Max Power Racing 90%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No Gran Turismo beater but still a pedal-to-the-metal road racer. Loads a cars and tracks to choose from.

MDK 75%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Interesting shoot 'em up let down badly by patchy graphics. Filled with action though.

Mechwarrior 2 83%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Climb inside a giant-sized robot and trudge into battle. Mixes strategy and shooting to great effect.

MediEvil 92%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Does slaughtering demons pump your pulse? Then tuck into this hack 'n' slash adventure. We like it.



Metal Gear Solid 93%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Atmospheric, pacy, good-looking and innovative. If only it were a bit longer...

Michael Owen's WLS 99 92%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
England soccer star endorses top footy game. Looks are sweet and gameplay is finger lickin' good.

Monster Trucks 76%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Big motors with oversized tyres trash the countryside in this frantic racer. Good dirt chummin' fun for a little while.

Mortal Kombat 3 71%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
MK fans will love it but the rest of us'll think it's pretty naff. Extra marks for gory finishing moves.

Moto Racer 80%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Pretty speedy motorbike racer with both tarmac and off-road tracks. A nice change from car games.

Moto Racer 2 91%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
This is one helluva scorching. Stacks of tracks and bikes, plus an easy-to-use track editor.

Motorhead 85%

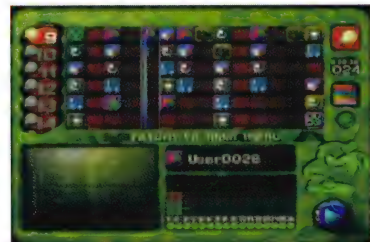
Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
So fast it'll make your eyes bleed. Graphics are basic compared to Gran Turismo, but this one still pops our cork.

Motor Toon Grand Prix 2 80%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Light-hearted racer that's more a laugh than a sim. Great in one player but check out the two-player link-up - it's smart.

Music 92%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Be the next Fatboy Slim with this dance music creator. Loads of samples and dead easy to use.



Myst 76%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
One third of the Help! charity pack. Dull-looking adventure that's quite absorbing. Patience is a must for this 'un though.



N20 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No-brainer gameplay means you can pick up this blast and notch up high scores within minutes.

Nanotek Warrior 75%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Enjoyable shooting action which starts with a kick, but lacks enough levels to keep blowing your mind.

NBA Hangtime 72%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Arcade basketball game doesn't take itself too seriously. A laugh in four-player with multitap and that's about it.

NBA in the Zone 75%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Pacey basketball sim with stacks of stats. Looks old compared to newer b-ball slam dunkers.

NBA in the Zone 2 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Much better than the first, but let's face it, it's still basketball. More variety next time, please.

NBA Jam Tournament 80%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Multitap-compatible conversion of the age-old arcade game. Two-on-two action with big heads. Odd.

NBA Live 97 83%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Two multitaps, eight players. Fork out top dollar for this sweet b-ball game and all the gear and you won't be disappointed.

NBA Live 98 88%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Same as the last, but with updated teams and players, plus a few enhancements. Sweet.

NBA Live 99 79%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Look, enough of the basketball games, all right? Especially when they offer bugger all over the others.

Need for Speed III 87%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Very fast and tasty-looking high-speed driving game which is miles better than the previous two. Uses Dual Shock.



Newman Haas Racing 71%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Substandard Indy Car racer from the blokes who gave us Formula 1. Looks old, man.

NFL Blitz 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
The only American footy game which doesn't get bogged down by over-complicated rules. Not 'alf bad.

NFL Gameday 72%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
More realistic than Blitz but nowhere near as much fun. Very average in every respect.

NHL 97 85%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Top-notch graphics make this a great-looking sports sim. Gameplay's pretty hot, too.

NHL 98 91%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-8
Slicker than the previous effort, plus better graphics and all-new teams. And an eight-player mode.

NHL 99 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Instalment number three and it's still the same old thang. Not bad, but we expect more. So should you.

NHL Breakaway 98 87%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-8
If ice hockey's your bag, this ain't bad for a spin, even though it looks and plays like most of the others.

NHL Powerplay 98 87%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
A lot of ice, tons of players and a tiny puck. It sounds like every other hockey game and y'know what, it is.

Nightmare Creatures 89%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Gothic horror game with two heroes hack 'n' slashing it against Satan's spawn. Gory and great.

Ninja: Shadow of Darkness 80%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Chuck throwing stars and hack with your sword in this Okish one-player action 'em up.

Nuclear Strike 91%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Explosive chopper shooter mixing top-notch blasting with serious strategy. It's a toughie, but you'll dig it.



ODT 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Run around and shoot loads of stuff. Oh, and solve some dam easy puzzles. We don't mind this at all.

Olympic Soccer 75%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
An old skool soccer game which looks appalling but doesn't play too bad. Not in the same league as ISS Pro though.

One 79%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Good looking ultra-violent platform shooter which would've been awesome if it wasn't for the yawnsome combat.

Overblood 71%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Resident Evil-style adventure which lacks excitement or tension. More action needed, and fast!



Parappa the Rapper 89%

Price £29.99 ■ Players 1
Bizarro rapping game when you win by tapping in time with the music, Simon Says style. Offbeat and amusing.

Phat Air Snowboarding 75%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Snowboarding bandwagon-jumper which just doesn't cut the mustard against t'other steep slope sliders.

Pitfall 3D 84%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Very playable platformer which nicks a load of ideas from Indiana Jones. Challenging yet fun.

Pocket Fighter 79%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Pint-sized fighters square up against each other in this strangely interesting punch 'em up. One for fanatics only.

Po'Ed 72%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Doom-style blaster with weird monsters and bizarro weapons. Ever whacked anything with a frying pan? You can now...

Point Blank 92%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Fantastic shooting gallery gun game which really needs a lightgun. The two-player is brilliant.

Pool Hustler 79%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Plenty 'o' ball fun to be had, but strange Yankee rules spoil our fun somewhat.

Populous: The Beginning 85%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Another God game where you build up your little guys and lead 'em into battle. Yeah, a nice little number.

Poy Poy 83%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
Using the multitap, up to four players can whup each other's ass by chucking stuff around. The one player game is naff though.

Poy Poy 2 73%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
Hang on a sec. This is exactly the same as the first. We demand to know what's going on!

Premier Manager 98 86%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Was the king of the sheepskin coat, but a few major flaws mean it's not quite a classic. Not so for the sequel though...

Premier Manager 99 91%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Similar to the first, but with most of the bugs ironed out. The result's a well-tasty footy management sim.



Pro Pinball: Big Race USA 89%

Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-4
Bargain-priced pinball sim with only one table, but boy is it a corker. Stacks of secrets and bonuses to play with.

Pro Pinball: The Web 89%

Price £24.99 ■ Players 1-4
The first in the Pro Pinball series. A class table with tons of sub-games ensures this is a definite must-have.

Pro Pinball: Timeshock! 89%

Price £24.99 ■ Players 1-4
Like the others in the series, this offers fantastic ball physics and a brilliant table to play on.

Project Overkill 72%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Flashy but dull-as-ditch-water shoot 'em up. Not even the handful of puzzles spice it up...

Psychic Detective 74%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Spanning three CDs, it's not that it's a giant-sized game, it's just got a load of video footage. Not bad but by no means great.

Psychic Force **71%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Standard fare beat 'em up. All the usual moves and fighters but poor executed. Oh well.

R

R-Types **81%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Two really old shoot 'em ups for the price of one. Both look pretty poor but both pack some serious gameplay.

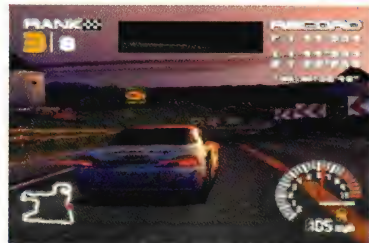
Racing Simulation-Monaco Grand Prix **82%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 At last! A Formula One game that doesn't suck. Yeah, you could've knocked us over with a feather, too...

Rage Racer **93%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Goyish-looking, super-fast racing game that's lush to play. Get it, worship it, thank us for recommending it.

Raging Skies **71%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Dated flight sim which gets repetitive all too quickly. It's average, even if you're into this sort of thing.

Return Fire **82%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Comical army game where you choose your vehicle and drive it into battle. Fast, furious and fun.

Ridge Racer Type 4 **93%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Excellent racing game. Right up there with Gran Turismo. Buy it. Now.



Risk **73%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Expensive alternative to the classic boardgame of world domination. Your dad'll probably like it.

Sim City 2000 **87%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 First you build a city, then you've got to run it. Pretty heavy going but rewarding if you stick at it. Easier to control with the mouse.

Skull Monkeys **78%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Plasticine characters and far-out levels makes this platformer a unique, if not entirely brilliant action game.

Snow Racer **78%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Ski or snowboard down some dangerously steep slopes. Great freestyle mode but not much else.

Spot goes to Hollywood **71%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 You're a little red spot, right, and you've gotta jump on bad guys and collect things. In other words, a dodgy platformer.

Spyro the Dragon **88%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Hyper-cute 3D platform epic that's lovely looking but pretty simple to play. Come 'n' get it, kids...

Star Gladiator **85%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 This 3D fighter's super-smart to look at, and although gameplay's basic it's still good for a quick bash.

Streak **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Hoverboarding race game with some cleverly-designed courses and an all-right two-player game.

Steel Harbinger **71%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Viewed-from-above run-around, shooty game, with you cast as a scantily-clad female cyborg. Odd plot, ordinary gameplay.

Steel Reign **75%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Not-so-bad tank game that's a bit repetitive but worth a look all the same. Best to rent, though.

Street Fighter Alpha **87%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 It's an old series but as a 2D fighter it's still super-slick. Great graphics and solid gameplay.

Street Fighter Alpha 2 **91%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Similar to before but with new characters, great custom combos and counters. Great stuff.



Street Fighter Alpha 3 **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Smart enough beat 'em up all right, but the good news is: it uses the PocketStation.

Street Fighter Collection **73%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Not-that-great compilation of three Street Fighter games, two of which are dead old and extremely similar. Shame.

Street Fighter Ex Plus Alpha **93%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 It's Street Fighter in 3D and y'know what, it rocks. Fast and full of great moves, you should have this in.

Street Racer **71%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Average racing game which is only memorable for the multiplayer game. Which isn't that great, either. Oops.

Suikoden **75%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Boring as hell to look at, but role-playing freaks'll get moist over this. It's a bit dull for the rest of us, though.

Super Puzzle Fighter 2 Turbo **92%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 The most addictive game we've played, EVER. And it's only a dead simple puzzle game.

Supersonic Racers **74%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Playable but flawed racer with tiny cars and interesting tracks. Not as good as Micro Machines.

Swagman **77%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Arcade fun set in a weird dreamscape. Looks flat and pretty dull, a bit like the gameplay.

Syndicate Wars **90%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Ultra-cool and very violent shoot'em up with neat four-player multi-tap game. Pretty good with a mouse.

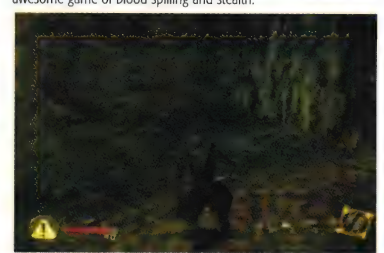
T

Tank Racer **71%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 As a two-player game you'll get a bit of value, but in single-player mode racing tank's just doesn't cut it.

Tekken 3 **96%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 The daddy of all beat 'em ups, this is so good it hurts. Superb graphics, moves and fighters.

Tempest X3 **80%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Retro shooter. Gameplay's sweet and the graphics are OK, but it doesn't last long enough.

Tenchu: Stealth Assassin **92%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Be rough like a ninja and sting like a bee in this awesome game of blood-spilling and stealth.



Tenka **72%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Slow-moving first-person blast with run-of-the-mill graphics and gameplay. Needs an action injection.

Tennis Arena **76%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Slick tennis game that's not the best we've seen, but it's not all bad. Has a four-player multi-tap option.

Test Drive 4x4 **76%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 There are stacks of off-roads available and this isn't up there with the best of 'em. Oh well.

Test Drive 5 **77%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Tarmac racer which just manages to drag itself from the pit of mediocrity. But only just...

Tetris Plus **79%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Well, it's Tetris innit? A pretty good version of the classic puzzler, but the price tag's a bit steep.

Theme Hospital **84%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Build your own hospital, making sure the patients are cared for and the doctors aren't overworked. Not bad. Easier with mouse.

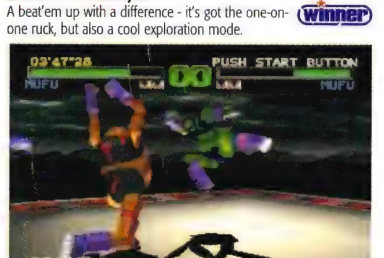
Theme Park **85%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Same as above, but this time you've got a theme park complete with rollercoasters and rides to play around with.

Tiger Shark **72%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Impossibly high difficulty level makes this otherwise tasty shooter a bit hard to enjoy. C'mon guys, go easy on us...

Tiger Woods 99 **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 A pretty good golf sim which only falls short because of it's cruddy putting system.

Time Commando **76%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1
 Unusual sci-fi mix of adventure and shooting. Odd control system takes some getting used to.

Tobal No.1 **91%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 A beat'em up with a difference - it's got the one-on-one ruck, but also a cool exploration mode.



TOCA Touring Car 2 **93%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 The graphics are juicy, the handling is sweet and gameplay is spot on. Two-player ain't so bad, either.

Want to know more about a game?

Then give us a call. We'll help you out

There's a lot of games available on the 'Station. Nearly 600 in fact. So we know it's not easy choosing which to buy. That's why we're here. To help. If you want advice give us a call on the number below and we'll do our best to sort you out.

PHONE 0171 972 6700
 And ask to speak to PlayStation. We're here to help.

Raiden Project **72%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Dodgy to look at 'cos it's so old. The gameplay's simple but doesn't rescue it from mediocrity.

Rally Cross **80%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-4
 Tasty little off-road racing game made even better by its multi-tap-tastic four-player mode.

Rally Cross 2 **79%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 None too serious sequel with fun gameplay and ridiculous crashes. The track editor is a nice touch.

Rapid Racer **82%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Speedboat racing with kick-ass soundtrack and some cool water effects. Slow in two-player mode.

Rapid Reload **75%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Entertaining but ultimately limited platform shoot 'em up. There's much better stuff available...

Ray Storm **83%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1-2
 Vertical blasting shoot 'em up that's tough, demanding and fast. Also packs some great weapons.

Ray Tracers **73%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 Fantastic while it lasts, but this zippy car chase game is over within the first couple of hours. Darn!

Reboot **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Hoverboard game that's more a frantic blast than futuristic racer. Plays well, but a bit limited.

Reloaded **71%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Top-down blast with big weapons and a surprising number of levels. Very samey after a while.

Resident Evil 2 **95%**
Price £49.99 **Players** 1
 Two discs full of pant-filling surprises. Super-tense and gloriously gory, we guarantee you'll love it.

Resident Evil Director's Cut **91%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 Virtually identical to the first one, but with a couple of extra scenes. Get the original for £20 instead.

Retro Force **75%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Robotic space cats run riot in this old-style shoot 'em up. Don't bother buying, rent it instead.

Rival Schools **89%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Schoolkids go psycho in the playground in this sweet 3D fighter. You can even train up your geezies.

Riven **80%**
Price £49.99 **Players** 1
 You'll pay big bucks for this 'cos it's on five discs. Very clever and good looking, but very, very slow.

Road Rash 3D **80%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Bike racing with two ways to win: drive like a demon or use chains and other weapons to cane the other riders. Different.

Rogue Trip **76%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Cars wars set in different arenas. Grab victory by rescuing tourists and filling the enemy with bullets.

Rollcage **89%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-2
 Like Wipeout on the roads. Which means lots of speed and driving on the ceiling. So, yeah: it rocks.

Rosco McQueen **78%**
Price £34.99 **Players** 1
 Firefighting thing in which you've gotta save buildings before they're burnt to the ground. More suited to youngsters.

Rushdown **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Mountain biking, snowboarding and kayaking all on the one disc. Shame it's not that great.

R-Type Delta **85%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-2
 Old-style space shoot 'em up sees you flying across the screen offing baddies. Still takes no prisoners.

S

Sampras Extreme Tennis **88%**
Price £44.99 **Players** 1-4
 Real ease of play and lots of views raise it above unseeded rivals. A lot of players to choose from, too.

SCARS **83%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1-4
 Super Computer Animal Racing Simulation, otherwise known as good-for-a-laff tyre burner for up to four players using a multi-tap.

Shadow Master **78%**
Price £39.99 **Players** 1
 Buggy-based first-person shooter set in the future. Loads blasting but gets a bit boring after a while.

Why?

Answers to burning questions...

Why do we get games after America and Japan?

We don't get ALL games after America and Japan, just the ones that are made there, like Tekken, Resident Evil, Metal Gear Solid etc. The likes of Tomb Raider and Wipeout come from Blighty so we get them first. But the reason they take so long to come from Japan is down to the time it takes to convert them from NTSC format to PAL format. Add translation and you could be in for a long wait.

What's the difference between NTSC format and PAL format?

You don't wanna know. Just accept that for some reason Americans and Japs use NTSC and we use PAL. It's the same for videos, so don't buy 'em in America, OK?

Why do games cost so much compared to music CDs?

Basically, because more people are involved in their production, and more money invested in them beforehand. Everybody needs to get paid, even the makers of Iznogoud have gotta eat.



Tomb Raider II 94%

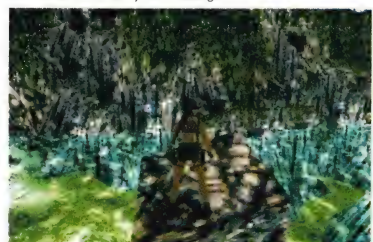
Price £44.99 Players 1
Lara's second adventure is good but boy, is it a git to beat. Soon to be going Platinum so hang on.

Winner

Tomb Raider III 93%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Three games later and she's still kicking ass. Bigger than the other two and just as exciting.

Winner



Tombi 79%

Price £39.99 Players 1
Typically Jap-style cartoon platformer with a pink-haired caveman who chucks pigs around. Just don't ask, OK?

Total NBA 96 74%

Price £44.99 Players 1-8
Just when you thought it was safe to enter the game shop... Another b-ball game appears. Noo!

Total NBA 97 76%

Price £34.99 Players 1-8
Slightly better than the last but still not great. Only check out if you really like basketball games.

Total NBA 98 79%

Price £44.99 Players 1-8
The best of the series, but again it's only recommended to true fans of this siam-dunkin' sim.

Tokyo Highway Battle 74%

Price £39.99 Players 1
Substandard Rage Racer clone set on the streets of, um, Tokyo. The only good bit is the powersliding.

Toshiden 3 76%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
A beat 'em up best left for beginners, 'cos you can pull off some cool-looking moves just by hammering the buttons. Yawn.

Transport Tycoon 84%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Your city's in dire need of a decent transport system and you're the guy to sort it. Pretty good if you've got patience.

Treasure of the Deep 72%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Make money by stealing booty from shipwrecks. Slow-paced underwater exploration blaster.

Triple Play 2000 79%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Baseball? Quite frankly, we don't want to play baseball but, truth be told, if we did, we'd play this one. Not bad at all.

Tunnel Bl 77%

Price £44.99 Players 1
It's looks the business but gameplay's not so sweet. Ultra-repetitive first-person shoot 'em up.

Twisted Metal 79%

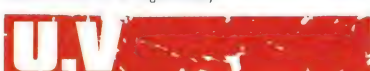
Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Mad Max-style car shooting. A taste of things to come in the superb sequel, but this isn't quite so slick.

Twisted Metal World Tour 87%

Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Dodgy graphics aside, this is a great car-based blast which really rocks in two-player. Great battle arenas, too.

The Unholy War 89%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Part of it's like a chess game with good graphics, the other bit's a frantic blast between two fighters. Racy.



UEFA Champions League Season 98/99 91%

Price £39.99 Players 1-4
Fooly game great looks and gameplay to match. We have a winner!

Winner

Vandal Hearts 81%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Another gammy-looking role-player with half-decent gameplay. Geeks'll love it, but the rest of us will find it hard work.

V-Ball Beach Volley Heroes 75%

Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Kung-fu-style volleyball that's pretty easy to play and fairly enjoyable. At its best in two-player.

Victory Boxing 74%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
More tactical than yer standard beat 'em up, this is slow and not much fun.

Victory Boxing 2 76%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
More of the same but with slightly better graphics. We prefer our fighters to be a bit faster.

Vigilante 8 91%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Cool-looking destruction derby with wicked cars kitted out with serious weaponry. Ace in two-player.

Winner



Virtual Pool 79%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Not a bad pool game but let's face it, you can't beat chalking the cue down your local.

Viva Football 84%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Class footy game with all the best international teams from the last 30-odd years. Unique control system works well.

VR Baseball 71%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
The only baseball game you're ever likely to want to play, and even then it's only average.

Vs 80%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
LA gang war beat 'em up that's fun but the graphics ain't all that. Still, gameplay packs a punch.

V Tennis 72%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Average tennis game which really doesn't stand up against competition like Sampras Extreme.



Warcraft 2 85%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Pretty cool Command & Conquer-style strategy game. No mouse support and lack of two-player mode a mistake.

WarGames: Defcon 1 88%

Price £39.99 Players 1-2
Full-on action-strategy game with loads of firefights and action to sink your teeth into.

Warhammer: SOTH 78%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Shadow of the Horned Rat's a slow strategy beast based on the tabletop game. A bit limited for most.

Warhammer II: Dark Omen 84%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Better than the first but not by much. Pretty deep and therefore difficult to get into goblin-infested fantasy war epic.

Warhawk 79%

Price £39.99 Players 1
Instantly playable even though the controls are perhaps a bit tricky to begin with. Action shooter which could've been much better.

Warzone 2100 87%

Price £39.99 Players 1
War strategy game with loads missions to get your teeth into. If strategy's your bag, you'll get into this one.

Wayne Gretsky's 3D Hockey 98 74%

Price £39.99 Players 1-4
Fast 'n' furious, but it won't last you that long. Stick to renting it only.

WCW Vs The World 78%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Surprisingly good wrestling game with a whopping 60 characters. Even if you hate the sport you'll have a laugh with this.

Wild 9 78%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Slickly presented and well-thought out platformer that's just too goddamn slow.

Rent it

Wild Arms 83%

Price £34.99 Players 1
Hardcore role-player for the kinda guy who wears thick-rimmed specs and a second-hand anorak. You have been warned.



Williams Arcade Classics 75%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
A retro compilation with five good games out of six games, one of which is Defender. Result!

Wing Commander III 76%

Price £44.99 Players 1
Features fantastic video sequences and the bloke who played Luke Skywalker, but the gameplay ain't so good.

World Cup 98 85%

Price £39.99 Players 1-8
The official game of the 98 tournament so it features all the proper teams and players. Not perfect but pretty good. Uses two multips.

World Cup Golf 77%

Price £39.99 Players 1-8
The graphics are spot on but some of the courses are unforgiving, especially when you're penalised for mistakes you didn't make.

World League Soccer 90%

Price £39.99 Players 1-4
A great game, the sequel of which is endorsed by Michael Owen. Still good. Works with multita.

Wreckin' Crew 72%

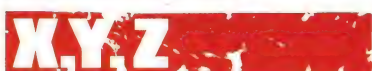
Price £44.99 Players 1-2
A great game, the sequel of which is endorsed by Michael Owen. Still good. Works with multita.

WWF Warzone 78%

Price £34.99 Players 1-2
Wrestling game which is playable enough, but it's still nothing special. The create wrestler option is cool.

WWF Wrestlemania 71%

Price £34.99 Players 1-2
More of the same, but much dodgier graphics. The moves aren't particularly exciting and neither's the game.



X-Com: Enemy Unknown 82%

Price £44.99 Players 1
A turn-based strategy game that's easy to play yet fulfilling if you've got the time. The idea? To cane the alien invaders.

X-Com: Terror from the Deep 82%

Price £44.99 Players 1
The same as above but set underwater, which means you get added air bubbles and all-new monsters. Oooh.

X-Men: Children of the Atom 72%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Too slow, plus the animation's rubbish. Just two criticisms of this particularly average thumpfest.

X-Men Vs Street Fighter 71%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
Suffers from the same problems as X-Men: COTA. Just not up there with the Tekkens of this world.

Z 78%

Price £39.99 Players 1
Even though this robot battle game's flavoured with strategy, it's still overflowing with action.

Zero Divide 71%

Price £44.99 Players 1-2
It tries to be Tekken with robots, but cocks up the graphics and the gameplay's just done a runner. Oh dear.



Every £19.99 bargain PlayStation game rated

Platinum games

Abe's Oddysee 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Stuffed with gameplay goodness and laffs a-plenty. The puzzles are rock solid but you'll dig it anyway. **winner**

Actua Soccer 58%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
All night graphics are eclipsed by awkward gameplay. OK but nowhere near as good as ISS Pro.

Adidas Power Soccer 60%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
Doesn't look that hot, doesn't play too good either. In fact, it's got naff all going for it, really...

Air Combat 65%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Tedious dogfighting game which tries to be a flight sim but fails. Miserably. Not enough action, not enough realism.

Alien Trilogy 85%

Price £19.99 Players 1
First-person blast based on the smash movies. Crammed with nasty aliens to bag and coolio weapons to collect.

Bust-a-Move 2 89%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Overly cute puzzle game which plays like a dream. Pop coloured balls to win. Simple but enjoyable.



Command & Conquer 90%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Guide your troops through enemy-riddled battlefields, building stuff as you go. Slow but still good.

Crash Bandicoot 86%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Playable but frustrating platformer which looks the biz. Not as much variation as the sequels, but great value for money.

Crash Bandicoot 2 87%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Fact is, Crash Bandicoot games are damn good platformers. And this is no exception.

Croc 79%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Super-cute 3D platform romp where cuddly Croc's gotta rescue his furball buddies. Looks nice, but it's a bit too kiddo for us.

Destruction Derby 72%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Looks basic and gameplay's as shallow as a paddling pool. Two-player link-up is quite a laugh.

Destruction Derby 2 89%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Graphics are tons better and so's the game. Pull off spectacular crashes or race like a demon, it's up to you.

Die Hard Trilogy 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Three games in one, and they're all peachy. You'll need a lightgun for the second one. **winner**

Doom 90%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
The original blood-spattered corridor shooter. Action-packed, great fun and a great two-player link-up game. Smart.

Excalibur 2555AD 77%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Tries to be Tomb Raider but misses by a mile. Still, the fantasy story line is interesting enough...

Fade to Black 87%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Sci-fi mix of puzzle-solving and shooting. It's dead hard but stick it out and you won't be disappointed.

FIFA 96 58%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
This is an old git compared to the newer, better-looking games like ISS Pro 98. Not even worth £20, really.

Final Fantasy VII 86%

Price £19.99 Players 1
One of those role-playing games you either love or you hate. A steal at £19.99 but nevertheless we recommend try before you buy.

Firestorm: Thunderhawk 2 82%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Helicopter shoot 'em up that's a sweet mix of strategy and action. Just released on charity pack with three other games.

Formula 1 88%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
More than competent racing sim based on the 95 F1 season. Graphics are a bit blocky but hey, we still like. Uses link-up cable.

Gran Turismo 93%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Too realistic for some, but this is still probably the best racer around! Grab a dual shock and go. **winner**

Grand Theft Auto 85%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Crappy-looking but great fun to play. Steal cars, work for the mob, run riot. Hallelujah!

G-Police 84%

Price £19.99 Players 1
You're the cops. You pilot a cop copter. You blow stuff up across 35 different missions. What's to dislike?

Heart of Darkness 86%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Platform affair which looks good enough to eat and plays OK too. It's problem? Too damn frustrating by far...

Hercules 76%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Cartoony platformer japes in a variety of styles. You've got Disney to thank for this one.

International Track & Field 90%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
An excellent party game for four players. Hammer the buttons to rack up the fastest times in this Olympic-standard sports game.



ISS Pro 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Still up there with the best footy games. A bit slow, but plays sweet. You won't find a better bargain. **winner**

Legacy of Kain: Blood Omen 88%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Enormous vampire adventure overflowing with virgins and blood-sucking. Doesn't look great but it's cool to play.

Loaded 75%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Ultra-violent shooter with bags of style but not much variation. Won't last you too long, then.

The Lost World: Jurassic Park 41%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Dodgy dino blast where you play as either hunters or toothed-up replies hungry for blood. Twenty quid badly spent, we reckon.

Mickey's Wild Adventure 45%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Well dated 2D platformer with the cartoon rodent. Extremely cute and very, very boring. Avoid.

Micro Machines V3 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
Pint-sized cars steam round giant-sized tracks. Good for one player, absolutely creamy in four-player. **winner**

Mortal Kombat Trilogy 76%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
All the best Mortal Kombat bits in one package. Great if you like 'em gory, but we think it's just OK.

Moto Racer 79%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Straight-up, seat-of-your-pants motorcycle racing. Don't expect too much and you'll have a right laff.

Need for Speed 70%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Second-rate racer which can't decide whether to be an action game or simulation. C'mon, make up your mind...

Pandemonium! 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Bright, bold and bolshi 3D platformer with slick graphics and polished gameplay. **winner**

Pandemonium 2 79%

Price £19.99 Players 1
This sequel's more colourful and has got a choice of character, but lacks the pizzazz of the original.

PGA Tour 96 59%

Price £19.99 Players 1-8
Looks ropey and the control system ain't so hot, especially when you're putting. Flawed, that's for sure.

Porsche Challenge 80%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
This nice-looking racer makes us warm in one-player, even if the controls are a bit dodgy. Two-player's not so good.

Rayman 43%

Price £19.99 Players 1
This game's older than your gran and, y'know, it looks it. 2D platformer which fails to excite.

Resident Evil 94%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Excellent scarefest with tons of head-popping gun action and staggering zombies. A must-have. **winner**

Ridge Racer 76%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Was great in it's time and is still OK, but has been succeeded by so many other racers. Why not check out...

Ridge Racer Revolution 84%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Plays much the same as Ridge Racer, but has got some better tracks and a two-player link-up mode. Awful music though.

Road Rash 64%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Motorbiking/fighting mix where the winner's the first one to cross the line in one piece...

Soul Blade 90%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Lush sword-fighting beat 'em up with some mind-blowing special effects. Gameplay's simple but hey, it's still good.

Soviet Strike 92%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Rock solid chopper strategy shoot 'em up. Tough missions, top graphics and tricky gameplay. **winner**

Space Hulk 84%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Lead a team of dead 'ard space soldiers into battle against some nasty aliens. Slow strategy game.

Tekken 90%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Dead good to play but looks a bit crusty compared to the new 'uns. Good, but let's face it, you're gonna go for the one below...

Tekken 2 95%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
For £20 this is the bargain of the year. No, make that the Millennium. Everything's great about this. **winner**

Time Crisis 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1
The ultimate gun game which, for this price, will blow you away. You WILL need a lightgun though. **winner**

TOCA Touring Car Championship 91%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Wicked crashes a speciality here, as crowds of tuned-up cars burn it round a handful of tracks. **winner**

Tomb Raider 92%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Lara's first adventure is pretty much the perfect mix of action and puzzling. You really should have this. **winner**

Tomb Raider II 89%

Price £19.99 Players 1
Probably the worst of all Tomb Raiders. But still awesome. And for £19.99 you can't go wrong.



Total Drivin' 72%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
Straightforward arcade racing for up to four players, using a link cable and split-screen option. Nowt special.

True Pinball 50%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
It's got four tables but all of 'em are trash. Bite the bullet and fork out the extra cash for one of the Pro Pinball games instead.

V-Rally 92%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Dead enjoyable off-road effort with sweet gameplay and a tasty two-player game. **winner**

WipEout 78%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Fast futuristic racer with high-speed thrills and collect weapons. Looks very old compared to the sequel.

WipEout 2097 94%

Price £19.99 Players 1-2
Super-slick racing monster that's so fast your eyes'll pop. Good link-up game and excellent music. **winner**

Worms 82%

Price £19.99 Players 1-4
It's a real stinker for one player, but plug in a multiap, get yer mates around and let battle commence. Cool.

NEW Final Fantasy VII

Price £19.99 Players 1

Three discs. All for just

£19.99. Wowser

What's this then?

A huge role-playing game that bores some people rigid and eats up the lives of others.

What's it like?

It's huge. But be prepared to give up after a day of reading text and fiddling with numbers ain't your thang.

RATED 86%



You like screens like this? You'll like FFVII then



Blaze Arcade stick

■ £29.99

A modestly-priced way to get that arcadey bash-bash-bash stuff going without having to be surrounded by pale-faced maladjusted Game Children.

And without having to shell out silver every time your bloke hits the canvas.

■ **Get it out for:** Slick clicky sticks

■ **Rated:** Looks and plays the business. The sticky bit's just the right side of twitchy and the buttons do their big round clicky arcade thing like good buttons should. We like. **90%**

best buy

GEAR

Other stuff you need for your 'Station

Whether it's a new joypad or a cartridge that makes you a gaming god, you'll find the lot reviewed here...

Cyber Shock

■ £19.99

New buttons for the old joypad. Sadly, they're new, bad buttons. For an already-quite-poor joypad. The buttons were already quite crap. Now you can turn the Dual Shock sticks into the stuff of high comedy as well!

■ **Get it out for:** Funny-fingered friends

■ **Rated:** Thing is, the sticks on here were the only

decent bit of the joypad before. But they had one flaw. They fell off. Now you've got four comedy substitutes to stick on in their places. Whoop de do.

85%



Pro Racing Grip

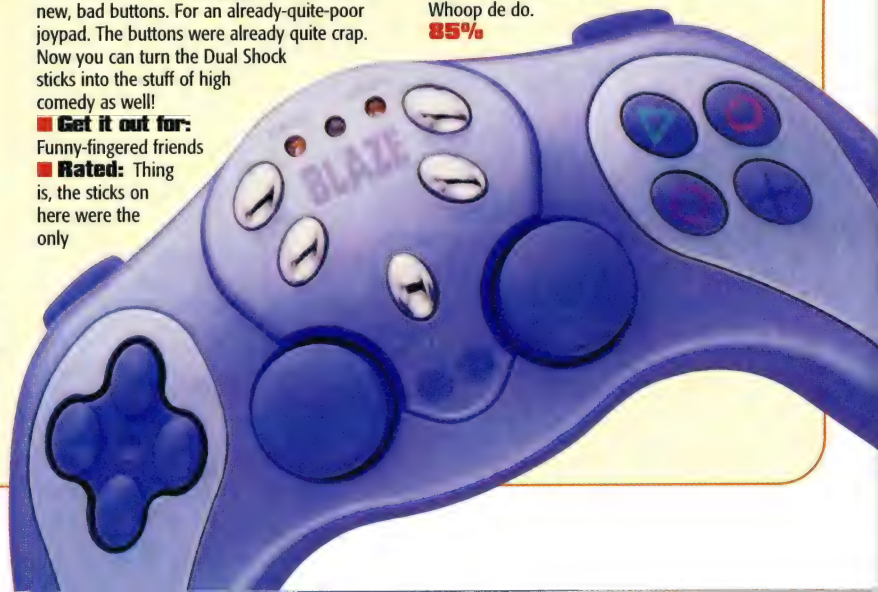
■ £29.99

Ugly, crap and pointless. Not to mention girly, stupid and naff. Yup, it's the racing controller where you turn ickle silver wheels to steer. We don't need things like this in our world.

■ **Get it out for:** There is no possible justification for 'getting it out'

■ **Rated:** The little silver wheels are beyond stupid. For starters, you're not turning them right or left, you're turning them back or forwards.

Which doesn't work. Plus you DON'T want your mates to see you messing with something with little Fisher Price wheels on the side. Even the trigger bits you pull to accelerate are total cock. **45%**



Games Rated 70% and under and the rest...

2Xtreme 55%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Really poor sequel to Extreme Games.

3D Lemmings 69%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
OKish 3D graphics. Uninteresting and awkward gameplay.

4-4-2 14%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
An absolute disgrace of a football game.

A

Actua Ice Hockey 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
There are too many ice hockey games around already. Nuff said



Actua Soccer Club Edition 60%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Same as the first Actua Soccer, but with club teams. Duh.

Adidas Power Soccer 98 55%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
Crappy old footy game which doesn't cut the mustard.

Adidas Soccer International 97 64%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
A follow-up to the first 'un, and likewise just as slack.

Agent Armstrong 57%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Mindless blasting, easy puzzles and daft graphics.

Air Race 66%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Racing takes to the skies. Easy to pick up but not much fun.

All Star Soccer 34%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Tries to mix footy with comedy commentary. Fails.

Andretti Racing 70%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Link-up four-player's OK, but the rest is nothing special.

Aquanaut's Holiday 53%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Environmentally friendly undersea adventure. Wet, but not wild.

Area 51 52%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dodgy lightgun game which is, like, Dullsville.

Ark of Time 48%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Bland puzzler: too boring and too hard. Get outta here!

Assault Rigs 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
A nice idea, but just too easy and too simple for its own good.

Asterix 30%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Unbelievably tedious mix of strategy and platform. Ugh!

Atari Collection 54%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Retro compilation: oldie, but no goldie.

Atari Collection 2 55%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
More retro 'classics'. Yeah, right...

Asteroids 70%

Price £29.95 ■ Players 1-2
Sure, it's a classic 80s arcade blaster, but couldn't

Atlantis 29%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tremendously dull adventure-type malarky.

Auto Destruct 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Cop show-style driving and shooting game with fizz.

Ayrton Senna Kart Duel 32%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Very grim, substandard racer. Avoid, and that's an order.

Ayrton Senna Kart Duel 2 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
A karting game with all the fun of a lobotomy. Nasty.

Azure Dreams 67%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
This RPG is packed with good ideas, but is ultimately tedious.

B

Battle Arena Toshinden 2 61%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Great visuals but the gameplay doesn't cut it.

Battle Stations 52%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Nice battleships concept, but it's just so basic.

Batman Forever 28%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
A real stinker. A beat 'em up in the loosest sense.

Beast Wars: Transformers 45%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Godawful shoot 'em up with robot animals.

Blast Chamber 54%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
It's a futuristic game of tag. No, really, it is...

Blasto 56%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Appalling 3D platformer. We really don't like this.

Blaze and Blade 40%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Supremely grating role-playing which is no fun.

Bloodlines 40%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Kind of like a game of sci-fi tag, if you see what we mean.

Bombberman 55%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-5
Being multitap-compatible doesn't save this action strategy bobbins

Bombberman Fantasy Race 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
This kiddie-fied racer is just a waste of good CD.

Break Point 62%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
A fairly playable arcade tennis game. Nothing special.

Brahma Force 55%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Robot shooter much like Doom, just not as good.

Broken Helix 70%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Futuristic shooty puzzler. Looking very dated indeed.

Brunswick Pro Bowling 45%

Price £19.99 ■ Players 1-2
A very dodgy-looking bowling game with trashy gameplay.

Bubsy 3D 30%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Ugh! Ultra-crap platform game that looks and plays cruddy.

Bug Riders 34%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Ugly, unplayable insect-riding racer. Diabolical.

C

Carnage Heart 64%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Build a robot then take it into battle. More strategy than action.

Casper 62%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Graphics are fine but it's a bit of a stinker to play.

Cheesy the Mouse 69%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Awful main character hides some average gameplay.

Chessmaster 3D 57%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Look, Grandad, we don't want your sort round here...

Chill 52%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
This snowboarding game is the pits. Much better stuff available.



City of the Lost Children 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Excellent graphics but wait, the gameplay's very slow.

Clock Tower 43%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Horror adventure that lacks tension and excitement.

Courier Crisis 69%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Collect parcels, deliver them. No thanks.

Critical Depth 65%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Submarine shooter. OK in two-player, not so good for loners.

Criticom 61%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Nice enough graphics but this fighter loses out to Tekken.

Crow 2: City of Angels 33%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
You hated the movie, but you'll hate this fightin' adventure more.

Crypt Killer 27%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Zombie gun game. Bad just doesn't describe it.

Cyber Sled 58%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lots 'o' shooting, bugger all action. Aww.

Cyber Speed 60%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
You race around wires. Like, why?

Cyberia 60%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Underwhelming shooter with very little gameplay.

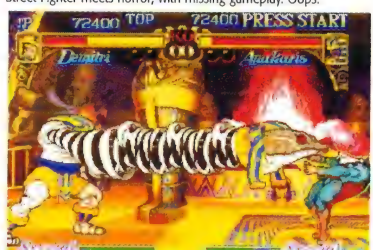
D

D 62%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Looks all right but way too short. You'll finish it an hour.

Darkstalkers 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Street Fighter meets horror, with missing gameplay. Oops.



Davis Cup Tennis 50%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Stinky tennis game. Don't bother with this, please.

Defcon 5 59%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
3D adventure that's no fun. Zzzzz...

Devil's Deception 60%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
You play Satan's helper in this dungeon manager game. Odd.

DiscWorld 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Fantasy comedy adventure which just isn't funny.

Dodgem Arena 68%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Arena-based spaceship ball game. Not great.

Dynasty Warriors 57%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Swordy fighter which doesn't, um, cut it against Soul Blade.

E

Eliminator 32%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Scoot around arenas, shooting stuff from your spaceship.

Epidemic 64%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Corridor-based shooter which leads straight to Snoreville.

Explosive Racing 51%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
It's a cruddy racing game. That's all you need to know.

Extreme Pinball 44%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Unrealistic ball movement so what's the point?

Give em a try

The weirdo games worth a look

Devil Dice
Not the most Satanic things, dice. And all told, this is a fairly un-diabolical puzzle game. Still devilishly (arf!) addictive, though.

Theme Hospital
Casualty fans! Listen up, 'cos Theme Hospital is the game you were born to play. The aim? To run your own hospital. Bizarre, but you'll love it.

Constructor
Those sweaty nights dreaming of running your own building site'll pay off once you get your thumbs around this.

Knowledge: updated every month

Extreme Snow Break 50%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Rubbish snowboarding effort. Well stinky.

F

FIFA 97 64%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Very little improvement over 96, which wasn't much cop.

FIFA 98: Road to World Cup 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Fairly average goal 'em up.

Fighting Force 66%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Beat 'em up adventure. Way dull.



Firo and Klawd 69%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Interesting buddy cop game which has no save game option. D'oh!

Floating Runner 59%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
3D adventure platform thing. No good.

Formula 1 98 70%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Worse than the other two. Like, how did that happen?

Frenzy 16%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
A biplane shooter. We really do hate this.

G

Galaxian 3D 36%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Space shooter, but where's the gameplay gone?

Gex 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
The original and worst lizard-based platformer.

Goal Storm 66%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Clumsy players lumber around like geriatrics.

Granstream Saga 55%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Role-playing tedium which smells bad.

Grid Run 64%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Game of tag only half-decent in multiplayer.

GTA London 68%

Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
You need the original to play this add-on, but don't bother, we say

Gunship 70%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Complex but fairly playable helicopter game.

Guardian's Crusade 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Even compared to other role-playing games this is boring tosh.

H

Hard Boiled 40%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Sci-fi shooter? Waste of space more like.

Hardcore 4x4 69%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Dull all-terrain racing game with lack of tracks.

Hebereke Popoitto 42%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Not-much-fun two-player puzzle game.

Hexen 50%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Very slow, very chunky first-person blast. Link-up.

Hi-Octane 64%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Race speeders and blast away with weapons. Or buy WipeOut 2097.

Hybrid 14%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Doom-style action 'em up. A right balls-up.

I

Independence Day 69%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Shoot 'em up based on the film. Bog-standard stuff.

Indy 500 50%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Offensively average Indy car game that's dull, dull, DULL.

In the Hunt 67%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
2D submarine shoot 'em up that's, er, substandard. Huh.

ISS Deluxe 56%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dodgy footballer that's seen better days.

Iron and Blood 67%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Average 3D beat 'em up with swords 'n' stuff.

Iron Man 22%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Sad 'n' shoddy. A fighter of appalling standards.

Iznogoud 9%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
The title says it all, really.

J

Jeremy McGrath Supercross 98 52%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Ropey-as-hell motocross atrocity.

Jet rider 53%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Great idea, but this hov-bike racer's let down by... well, everything.

Jet Rider II 30%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
A sequel which is worse. Go figure...

Johnny Bazzookatone 50%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Rock 'n' roll platformer without little rock, bugger all roll.

Judge Dredd 60%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Comic book gun game which lacks imagination. Well average.

K

KI Arena Fighters 55%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Kick-boxing sim which just isn't slick or quick enough.

Kick Off 97 60%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
OK-to-play footy game which looks ancient.

Kick Off World 60%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Same of 'thing, but with international teams. Ooh.

King of Fighters 96 40%

Price Rental only ■ Players 1-2
Only costs three quid to rent this beat 'em up.

Knockout Kings 67%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Plenty of famous boxers to choose from, but it's just so slow.



Krazy Ivan 61%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Robots with big guns fight, and nothing else happens. Oh, link-up.

Kurushi 68%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Block-based puzzler. Very mediocre.

L

The Last Report 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Tries to be Resident Evil but this adventure just ain't got it.

Legend 45%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Two-player hack 'n' slash fighter with sod all variety.

Legend of Kartia 43%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
We'd rather chew off our own feet than play this RPG again.

Lethal Enforcers 30%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Repulsive two-player lightgun game. It made us physically sick.

Libero Grande 60%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Far-out footy game which is just too weird for its own good.

Live Wire! 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Make boxes in this tiring puzzle game. And that's it.

Lomax in Lemmingland 70%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Lemmings in platform shocker! Actually it's not that bad...

Lone Soldier 62%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Second-rate soldier shoot 'em up which is way slow.

Lost Vikings 2 63%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Arcade puzzler which is frustrating to play and rubbish to look at.

M

Maximum Force 50%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
More lightgun mediocrity you really shouldn't bother with.

MegaMan Battle and Chase 36%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Cartoon multiplayer racing. Just get lost, please...

MegaMan Legends 40%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
3D adventure. Looks like it's fifty years old, and that's being kind...

MegaMan X3 60%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Age-old platformer which is way too difficult.

MegaMan X4 40%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Oh c'mon, don't palm us off with the same old platform rubbish.

MegaMan 8 53%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Another name, yet strangely similar to the rest. Rubbish.

Men in Black 69%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Hugely disappointing adventure based on the movie.

Midnight Run 56%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Semi-fast racer that's a total turd to play. Yuk.

Monkey Hero 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Cartoon-style platform 'high jinx'. Er, hardly...

Monopoly 68%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Same as the board game but on your telly.

Mortal Kombat 4 70%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Another MK fighter which offers very little new stuff.

Mortal Kombat Mythologies 50%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Boring, unplayable quest-version of age-old beat 'em up.

Motor Mash 68%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Derivative comic racing game: nice graphics but it's slow and dull.

Mr Domino 70%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1
Puzzler let down by poor control.

N

Nagano Winter Olympics 35%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Snow-based Track & Field game. Arse, quite frankly.

Namco Museum Vol.1 69%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
It's got Pacman, but everything else is yawn.

Namco Museum Vol.2 53%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
This time Xevious is the highlight. Oh, you've never heard of it...

Namco Museum Vol.3 63%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
C'mon, this is getting ridiculous...

Namco Museum Vol.4 57%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
PacLand and some other rubbish retro hell.

Namco Museum Vol.5 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Enough already. Blimey, don't they ever give in...

The age test

It's old, but are we still playing it?

ISS Pro 98

International Superstar Soccer (to give it its full title) isn't the best-selling footy game on the PlayStation, but it's the best. Sure, others'll give you the proper players' names and the benefit of a sexy-sounding licence, but none have the sheer pick-up-and-play, oh-just-one-more-go-then-playability of ISS Pro. Barely a lunchtime's passed since its release when this hasn't appeared on the office 'Stations. Fast and slick gameplay combined with the most instinctive controls of any sports game make this top dog in the footy world. Ignore the big names and go for the best, we say. And that's why we're still playing it.



NASCAR 98 64%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Ugly, dull racer with a hideous soundtrack.

NASCAR 99 50%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Insanely cack racer with unbelievably bad commentary. It's dire.

NBA Fastbreak 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Very realistic to play but y'know what, it's frustrating to the extreme.

NBA Jam Extreme 60%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Basketball starring players with big heads. Very funny.

NBA Live 96 61%

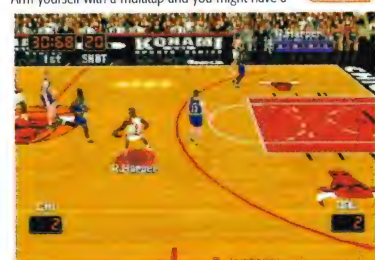
Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Average b-baller which just won't blow your mind.

NBA Pro 98 30%

Price £38.99 ■ Players 1-4
Just quit with the basketball games, OK?

NBA Pro 99 61%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Arm yourself with a multitap and you might have a



Need for Speed 2 49%

Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Looks crap and plays like a brick.

Need for Speed: Road Challenge 64%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Average racing affair with only a cop chase mode to recommend it

NFL Extreme 65%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Standard American football-type affair. Average.

NFL Quarterback Club 70%

Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Competent sports sim let down by blocky graphics.

NHL Face Off 64%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-8
Nothing new to be found in this ice hockey effort.

NHL Face Off 97 65%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-8
Still average, despite the inclusion of extra features...

NHL Face Off 99 60%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-8
And still more of the same hockey toss.

NHL Open Ice 70%

Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
Arcade-style hockey game. No great shakes, here.

NHL Powerplay 96

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
End-to-end stuff. OK, but there's so much better stuff on offer.

The Note

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Very basic adventure. Boring and dull.

Nova Storm

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Start game. Fire continuously. Finish game eventually. That's it.

O

Off World Interceptor

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
A buggy racer set on the Moon. Weird, but not much cop.

Olympic Games

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
More events than Track & Field, but not much fun to play.

OnSide Soccer

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Bland footy game not worth bothering with.

P

Pax Corpus

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Dire Tomb Raider wannabe. This is real slack.

Peak Performance

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lots of options in this racer but not much else.

Perfect Weapon

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Beat 'em up cum adventure. Rubbish in both departments.

Pet in TV

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tamagotchi-style pet for your PlayStation? No thanks...

PGA Tour 97

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Good-looking but gameplay's the same as all the rest.

PGA Tour 98

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Same as the last one, apart from a couple of slight improvements.

Pitball

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Futuristic sports game. Looks average, plays average.

Player Manager

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Predictable results spoil this footy management game.

Player Manager Seasons 98/99

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Football management effort that's not a patch on Premier Manager.

Pool

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-16
Average pool game with too many American rules.

Power Soccer 2

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
This average soccer game won't hold your interest for long.

Pro 18 Golf

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Weird-looking golf sim that's rubbish to play, too.

Psybadek

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Hoverboarding game that's more adventure than racing. Poor.

Puma Street Soccer

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Five-a-side footy game lacks moves and variety. Give it a miss.

R

Rampage World Tour

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-3
Choose your monster then smash some cities. Extremely basic.

Rampage Universal Tour

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-3
Ages old arcade monster basher gets no better over time.

Rascal

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Awful camera angles make this 3D platformer almost unplayable.

Real Bout: Fatal Fury

■ Price Rental only ■ Players 1-2
Very stale and slow beat 'em up. Not even worth renting.

Rebel Assault 2

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Not even the Star Wars connection saves this shooter.

Red Asphalt: Rock & Roll Racing 2

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Speedsters with awesome firepower fail to mix.

Revolution X

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
A gungame starring... Aerosmith? Oh pur-lease...

Rise 2: Resurrection

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Robot fighting game which fails to impress.

Riot

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-16
Despite its multiplayer option, this future sport's not much fun.

Robotron X

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Simple, mindless and run-of-the-mill shooter.

Rug Rats

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Unbelievably crud cartoon games even the kids'll hate.

Running Wild

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-4
Control cartoon characters running around colourful courses.

S

Samurai Showdown

■ Price Rental only ■ Players 1-2
Sword-fighting which hits new depths...

San Francisco Rush

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Tedious drive through the streets of SF. No fun.

Sensible Soccer 2000

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Crusty old footballer lacks talent. Real nasty.

Sentient

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Ambitious adventure is just too complicated for its own good.

Sentinel Returns

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
How can a game which looks so bad get released? Ridiculous.

Shanghai True Valor

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Oriental puzzler which you will not like.

Shellshock

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Second-rate tank game with shooty bits. Not brilliant, no siree.

Shockwave

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Trashy shoot 'em up which fails to get the blood pumping.

Skeleton Warriors

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Scrolling fighter which smells of old men's trousers.

Slam 'n' Jam 96

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dodgy camera views and rough gameplay.

Small Soldiers

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No variety, dull graphics and absolutely no link to the film.

Smash Court Tennis

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Slow and unresponsive tennis game.

Space Jam

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dull movie-based cash-in basketball game with Bugs Bunny and co.

Spawn: The Eternal

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Useless blend of action and adventure. Avoid.

Speed King

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Slow, boring and about as exciting as watching an egg boil.

Speedster

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Top-down racer which lacks speed and playability.

Spice World

■ Price £19.99 ■ Players 1
A shabby excuse for a game. Short and boring.

Spider

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Innovative platformer, but no better than average.

Sports Car GT

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
This is a toss racing game. It's slow and looks pants.

Starfighter 3000

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Doesn't look so hot, doesn't play well either. Dodgy shooter.

Star Wars: Masters of Teras Kasi

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Star Wars characters fighting. Could've been great but no.

Starwinder

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Simplistic racer where every level plays the same.

Street Fighter Collection 2

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Three not so 'classic' Street Fighter games on one disc.

Street Fighter: The Movie

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Just as bad as the movie. In other words, CRAP.

Street Sh8er

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
We wanted a skateboarding game. Thing is, we wanted a good one.

Strikepoint: The Hex Missions

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Poor helicopter game. Try Soviet Strike instead.

Striker 9

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-4
Just another rubbishy football game.

Super Match Soccer

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
Yawnsome footy game. For God's sake don't buy it.

Super Football Champ

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Dull, drab, bland... Get the idea about this footy turd?

Super Pang Collection

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Retro bubble-bursting arcade game. Too simple, really.

Swing

■ Price £34.99 ■ Players 1-2
Super-confusing puzzle game that's still strangely addictive.

T

Tai Fu

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A kung fu tiger. That's a bad idea, and this is a bad game.

Ten Pin Alley

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-6
Novelty bowling game which looks and plays like a dog.

Test Drive: Off Road

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Devoid of excitement and playability. Looks dreadful too.

Test Drive 4

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Lots of tracks but ultimately this 'un's too slow and ugly.

Three Lions

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Awful to look at and rubbish to play. A real footy stinker.

Tommi Makinen Rally

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Rally effort ain't much cop. In fact it's pants.

Top Gun: Fire at Will

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Gung-ho movie spin-off not worth tracking down.

Trap Runner

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Run around mazes planting bombs to catch out your mates. Dull.

Trash It

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Platformer with big hammers. Shame it's just not interesting.

V

Versailles

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A point 'n' click adventure. Redefines the word...

Viper

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Cacky controls spoil this great-looking chopper shoot 'em up.

Virtual Golf

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Nowhere near as good as Actua Golf 3. Not even close...

Virus 2000

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Rather average as space shoot 'em ups go.

VMX Racing

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Dirt bike racer which looks a thousand years old. Well, almost.

VR Powerboat Racing

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Speedboat racing which is waaaaaasty.

W

Wargods

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
3D fighting game with mushy graphics and lousy gameplay.

WCW Nitro

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
No great shakes from the Okish wrestler.

WCW Vs NWO Thunder

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Some all right bits, but overall this really isn't much to shout about.

Wing Commander IV

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1
Great video sequences and shaky gameplay.

Wingover

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
Boring aerial shoot 'em up with lotsa planes. Zzzz.

Wingover 2

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Short of flight sims we may be, but this is fairly poor.

World League Basketball

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-8
The worst b-ball game we've seen. Phew...

WWF in your House

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-4
Well below average wrestling game.

X.Y.Z

X2

■ Price £44.99 ■ Players 1-2
A tedious shoot 'em up that's way too difficult.

Xenocracy

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
A real dog turd of a game.

X-Games Pro Boarders

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Only to be trifled with if you're a mad keen snowboarding fiend.

YoYo's Puzzle Park

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Stupid puzzle thing which'll stretch your patience.

Zeitgeist (Jupiter Strike)

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1
Slow, clumsy 3D shooting game which seriously lacks appeal.

Zero Divide 2

■ Price £39.99 ■ Players 1-2
Very suspect 3D fighter. Best left alone.

What does it do?

This month: The RF cable

If you got your PlayStation less than two years ago, you'll need an RF cable. Older 'Stations have lots of holes at the back, but newer ones have hardly any, and this is where the cable comes in. If you want to play, say, Time Crisis, which involves plugging the gun into the front AND back of your Station you'll suddenly need those extra holes. It comes in handy for rigging up your Station to your stereo speakers too.

Verdict

You'll NEED it for Time Crisis. So get it anyway. Then experiment with your hi-fi.

Top blasts

Erm, Time Crisis. Getting the coolest stereo sounds out of your PlayStation



Great game endings you've got to see!

SPOILER



By: Psygnosis

Costs: £39.99

Players: 1

First Out: December 98

#6 Colony Wars: Vengeance

Bullet in the head

Now we know we're not normally in the business of showing you unhappy game endings, but this one's dead cool. See, if you manage to really foul things up for Kron and the Navy early on in the sequel to Colony Wars, you find yourself twiddling your thumbs in a League prison hulk. Time passes. A bit later, a grim-faced League goon knocks on the door. And from that gun-shaped bulge in the side of his trenchcoat, you're guessing that it isn't dinnertime...



■ You, kneeling. Time to cash in the chips

■ League blokes read out your sentence

■ Which is... Oh, go on. Just guess

■ Meanwhile the League baddies send in ships to kill everybody on Earth

■ So no more home for you, then

■ Baddies drop huge bombs in space

■ But your boss, Kron, decides to beat them to it, in a final act of defiance

■ He fires a Nova torpedo into the sun, killing everybody. And himself

■ But that's cold comfort when you're about to get a slug in the head

■ All in all, cheery stuff, innit?

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